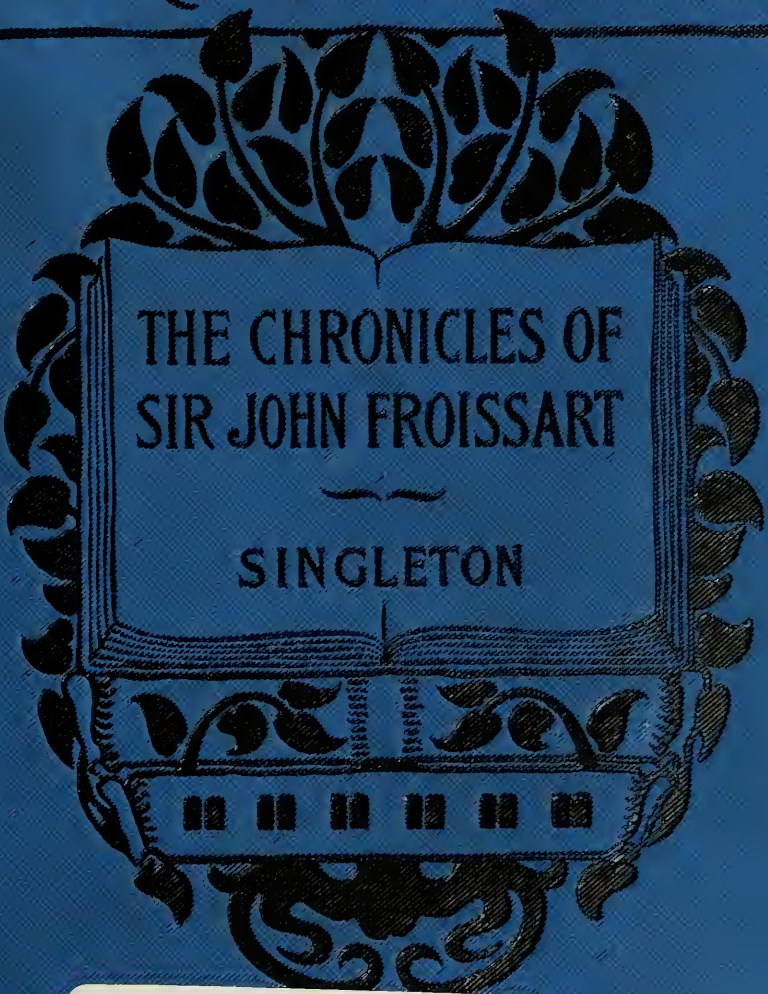
APPLETONS' HOME READING BOOKS



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Appletons' Home Reading Books

EDITED BY

WILLIAM T. HARRIS, A. M., LL. D.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

DIVISION III

HISTORY

Froissart presenting a copy of his book to
King Richard II of England.

APPLETONS' HOME READING BOOKS

THE CHRONICLES OF SIR JOHN FROISSART

CONDENSED FOR YOUNG READERS

BY

ADAM SINGLETON

NEW YORK
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY
1900

1683

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TO

E. C. H.

INTRODUCTION TO THE HOME READING BOOK SERIES BY THE EDITOR

The new education takes two important directions—one of these is toward original observation, requiring the pupil to test and verify what is taught him at school by his own experiments. The information that he learns from books or hears from his teacher's lips must be assimilated by incorporating it with his own experience.

The other direction pointed out by the new education is systematic home reading. It forms a part of school extension of all kinds. The so-called "University Extension" that originated at Cambridge and Oxford has as its chief feature the aid of home reading by lectures and round-table discussions, led or conducted by experts who also lay out the course of reading. The Chautauquan movement in this country prescribes a series of excellent books and furnishes for a goodly number of its readers annual courses of lectures. The teachers' reading circles that exist in many States prescribe the books to be read, and publish some analysis, commentary, or catechism to aid the members.

Home reading, it seems, furnishes the essential basis of this great movement to extend education

beyond the school and to make self-culture a habit of life.

Looking more carefully at the difference between the two directions of the new education we can see what each accomplishes. There is first an effort to train the original powers of the individual and make him self-active, quick at observation, and free in his thinking. Next, the new education endeavors, by the reading of books and the study of the wisdom of the race, to make the child or youth a participator in the results of experience of all mankind.

These two movements may be made antagonistic by poor teaching. The book knowledge, containing as it does the precious lesson of human experience, may be so taught as to bring with it only dead rules of conduct, only dead scraps of information, and no stimulant to original thinking. Its contents may be memorized without being understood. On the other hand, the self-activity of the child may be stimulated at the expense of his social well-being—his originality may be cultivated at the expense of his rationality. If he is taught persistently to have his own way, to trust only his own senses, to cling to his own opinions heedless of the experience of his fellows, he is preparing for an unsuccessful, misanthropic career, and is likely enough to end his life in a madhouse.

It is admitted that a too exclusive study of the knowledge found in books, the knowledge which is aggregated from the experience and thought of other people, may result in loading the mind of the pupil with material which he can not use to advantage.

Some minds are so full of lumber that there is no space left to set up a workshop. The necessity of uniting both of these directions of intellectual activity in the schools is therefore obvious, but we must not, in this place, fall into the error of supposing that it is the oral instruction in school and the personal influence of the teacher alone that excites the pupil to activity. Book instruction is not always dry and theoretical. The very persons who declaim against the book, and praise in such strong terms the self-activity of the pupil and original research, are mostly persons who have received their practical impulse from reading the writings of educational reformers. Very few persons have received an impulse from personal contact with inspiring teachers compared with the number that have been aroused by reading such books as Herbert Spencer's Treatise on Education, Rousseau's Émile, Pestalozzi's Leonard and Gertrude, Francis W. Parker's Talks about Teaching, G. Stanley Hall's Pedagogical Seminary. Think in this connection, too, of the impulse to observation in natural science produced by such books as those of Hugh Miller, Faraday, Tyndall, Huxley, Agassiz, and Darwin.

The new scientific book is different from the old. The old style book of science gave dead results where the new one gives not only the results, but a minute account of the method employed in reaching those results. An insight into the method employed in discovery trains the reader into a naturalist, an historian, a sociologist. The books of the writers above named have done more to stimulate original research on the

part of their readers than all other influences combined.

It is therefore much more a matter of importance to get the right kind of book than to get a living teacher. The book which teaches results, and at the same time gives in an intelligible manner the steps of discovery and the methods employed, is a book which will stimulate the student to repeat the experiments described and get beyond them into fields of original research himself. Every one remembers the published lectures of Faraday on chemistry, which exercised a wide influence in changing the style of books on natural science, causing them to deal with method more than results, and thus train the reader's power of conducting original research. Robinson Crusoe for nearly two hundred years has aroused the spirit of adventure and prompted young men to resort to the border lands of civilization. A library of home reading should contain books that incite to self-activity and arouse the spirit of inquiry. The books should treat of methods of discovery and evolution. All nature is unified by the discovery of the law of evolution. Each and every being in the world is now explained by the process of development to which it belongs. Every fact now throws light on all the others by illustrating the process of growth in which each has its end and aim.

The Home Reading Books are to be classed as follows:

First Division. Natural history, including popular scientific treatises on plants and animals, and also de-

scriptions of geographical localities. The branch of study in the district school course which corresponds to this is geography. Travels and sojourns in distant lands; special writings which treat of this or that animal or plant, or family of animals or plants; anything that relates to organic nature or to meteorology, or descriptive astronomy may be placed in this class.

Second Division. Whatever relates to physics or natural philosophy, to the statics or dynamics of air or water or light or electricity, or to the properties of matter; whatever relates to chemistry, either organic or inorganic—books on these subjects belong to the class that relates to what is inorganic. Even the so-called organic chemistry relates to the analysis of organic bodies into their inorganic compounds.

Third Division. History, biography, and ethnology. Books relating to the lives of individuals; to the social life of the nation; to the collisions of nations in war, as well as to the aid that one nation gives to another through commerce in times of peace; books on ethnology relating to the modes of life of savage or civilized peoples; on primitive manners and customs—books on these subjects belong to the third class, relating particularly to the human will, not merely the individual will but the social will, the will of the tribe or nation; and to this third class belong also books on ethics and morals, and on forms of government and laws, and what is included under the term civics, or the duties of citizenship.

Fourth Division. The fourth class of books includes more especially literature and works that make known the beautiful in such departments as sculpture, painting, architecture and music. Literature and art show human nature in the form of feelings, emotions, and aspirations, and they show how these feelings lead over to deeds and to clear thoughts. This department of books is perhaps more important than any other in our home reading, inasmuch as it teaches a knowledge of human nature and enables us to understand the motives that lead our fellow-men to action.

Plan for Use as Supplementary Reading.

The first work of the child in the school is to learn to recognize in a printed form the words that are familiar to him by ear. These words constitute what is called the colloquial vocabulary. They are words that he has come to know from having heard them used by the members of his family and by his playmates. He uses these words himself with considerable skill, but what he knows by ear he does not yet know by sight. It will require many weeks, many months even, of constant effort at reading the printed page to bring him to the point where the sight of the written word brings up as much to his mind as the sound of the spoken word. But patience and practice will by and by make the printed word far more suggestive than the spoken word, as every scholar may testify.

In order to bring about this familiarity with the

printed word it has been found necessary to re-enforce the reading in the school by supplementary reading at home. Books of the same grade of difficulty with the reader used in school are to be provided for the pupil. They must be so interesting to him that he will read them at home, using his time before and after school, and even his holidays, for this purpose.

But this matter of familiarizing the child with the printed word is only one half of the object aimed at by the supplementary home reading. He should read that which interests him. He should read that which will increase his power in making deeper studies, and what he reads should tend to correct his habits of observation. Step by step he should be initiated into the scientific method. Too many elementary books fail to teach the scientific method because they point out in an unsystematic way only those features of the object which the untutored senses of the pupil would discover at first glance. It is not useful to tell the child to observe a piece of chalk and see that it is white, more or less friable, and that it makes a mark on a fence or a wall. Scientific observation goes immediately behind the facts which lie obvious to a superficial investigation. Above all, it directs attention to such features of the object as relate it to its environment. It directs attention to the features that have a causal influence in making the object what it is and in extending its effects to other objects. Science discovers the reciprocal action of objects one upon another.

After the child has learned how to observe what is essential in one class of objects he is in a measure fitted to observe for himself all objects that resemble this class. After he has learned how to observe the seeds of the milkweed, he is partially prepared to observe the seeds of the dandelion, the burdock, and the thistle. After he has learned how to study the history of his native country, he has acquired some ability to study the history of England and Scotland or France or Germany. In the same way the daily preparation of his reading lesson at school aids him to read a story of Dickens or Walter Scott.

The teacher of a school will know how to obtain a small sum to invest in supplementary reading. In a graded school of four hundred pupils ten books of each number are sufficient, one set of ten books to be loaned the first week to the best pupils in one of the rooms, the next week to the ten pupils next in ability. On Monday afternoon a discussion should be held over the topics of interest to the pupils who have read the book. The pupils who have not yet read the book will become interested, and await anxiously their turn for the loan of the desired volume. Another set of ten books of a higher grade may be used in the same way in a room containing more advanced pupils. The older pupils who have left school, and also the parents, should avail themselves of the opportunity to read the books brought home from school. Thus is begun that continuous education by means of the public library which is not limited to the school period, but lasts through life.

W. T. Harris.

Washington, D. C., *Nov. 16, 1896.*

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

THE design of this book is set forth in the note to its young readers, as well as the manner in which it has been condensed from Lord Berners' English translation of Froissart as edited by Mr. Macaulay. Reference is therefore made to this note.

Whenever a word in Lord Berners' translation is unusual or strange, and is yet such a word as the young reader ought to acquire and thereafter possess as a part of his vocabulary, it has been printed in this book unchanged, with its modern equivalent immediately following in parentheses, thus: "and the king was mounted on a little palfrey (*riding horse*)." If the book is read aloud all such parentheses must be omitted.

If, on the other hand, the unusual word is really obsolete, it has been replaced by its modern equivalent, thus: "Then it was ordered that all men should move into the field," where the word *move* replaces the word "draw" in the original. Additions have been made by the present editor for the purpose of rendering the meaning perfectly clear to the young reader. For instance, where Froissart speaks of "the

prince," this book often says "the Prince of Wales"; where he speaks of "the king," this book says "the French King." In many cases Lord Berners has mistranslated the words of Froissart, and the mistranslations are corrected here.

The main object of the present volume is to open the fourteenth century to the young reader of the nineteenth. To do this satisfactorily, we must adhere to the original text, or to early translations of it, as closely as practicable consistent with that perfect clearness of language which is essential in books to be used by young people. The chapters in this book correspond to the chapters in Lord Berners' translation, though, of course, they are numbered differently, since only fifty-four out of his seven hundred chapters are printed here.

When no material change is made in the sense by leaving out phrases and clauses of Lord Berners' translation they have been omitted to shorten his portentously long sentences. There is no mark in this book to show where such alterations have been made. It does not seem important that there should be.

Whenever it has seemed useful, explanatory notes have been given. By far the greater number of them are very brief explanations in parentheses in the text itself, as, "put off his harness (*armor*)," and the like. The pronunciation of foreign words is given in the footnotes. A few longer notes are given, to direct the thought of the reader, or to enable him to place himself quickly in the situation of a reader of three centuries ago. The whole purpose of the pres-

ent volume is to put an American child in possession of a history which is his birthright. He should feel that these warriors are his ancestors. They are not Greeks, but Englishmen.

The vital matter, always kept in view, is to present the idea in Froissart's mind with perfect clearness to the American child who reads this book. Whenever this can be done without changing Lord Berners' text it is left unaltered. The form of Lord Berners' prose tells us something that is worth knowing about *his* mind. We see what things were important to him; and it is interesting to observe that he sometimes lays stress on matters that seem quite unimportant to us. The unchanged sentences give us the very words of an English gentleman of the sixteenth century. This is the daily conversation of a nobleman who lived in Shakespeare's day; just as Froissart's Chronicles are the writings of a French gentleman contemporary with Chaucer.

The illustrations have been copied from old manuscripts, old prints, and standard works on the life and times of Edward III. They will be found to be a valuable addition to the text, and they give a pictorial history of the manners of the time. The young reader should be encouraged to examine them minutely.

A. S.

New York, *December, 1898.*

A TABLE OF SOME HISTORICAL EVENTS
(1312–1400)

IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.		ABROAD.	
	A. D.		
Edward III born at Windsor Castle,	1312		
King Edward II imprisoned by Sir Roger Mortimer, and killed,	1327		
Edward III crowned King of England,	1327		
The Earl Mortimer is Regent of England, and he and Queen Isabel (daughter of King Philip IV of France) hold all the power,	1327–'30		A. D.
		Pope Nicholas V,	1328
		Philip VI of Valois,* King of France,	1328
		War of France with Flanders,	1328
King Robert Bruce of Scotland dies,	1329		
King David II of Scotland succeeds to the throne,	1329		
Mortimer imprisoned and executed,	1330		
Queen Isabel imprisoned, (She died 1357)	1330		

* Pronounced väl-wä'.

IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.		ABROAD.	
	A. D.		
The art of weaving woolen cloth introduced into England from Flanders,	1331		
Edward III invades Scotland,	1332		
Edward III supports Edward Baliol as King of Scotland,	1332		
Defeat of the Scots at Hallidon Hill by Edward III	1333		A. D.
Edward III invades Scotland,	1335–'36	Pope Benedict XII,	1334
The Hundred Years' War between England and France (1336 to 1431) begins; England allied with Flanders, etc.,	1336	Sir John Froissart born,	1337
Edward III invades France	1339	The English besiege Cambrai,	1339
Geoffrey Chaucer, the great English poet, born,	1340	Sea fight at Sluys; the English win,	1340
Edinburgh Castle taken by the English,	1341	The poet Petrarch crowned at Rome (as poet-laureate)	1341
The Houses of Lords and Commons founded,	1341	Civil war in Brittany,	1341
		War of the English and French in Brittany and in Guienne,	1341–'42
		Pope Clement VI,	1342
		Boccaccio crowned (as poet-laureate) in Rome,	1342
		The Turks settle in Europe	1343
First gold coins in England	1344	Jacob van Arteveldt of Flanders killed,	1345
Battle of Durham (the English victorious over the Scots),	1346	War between France and England in Brittany,	1346

IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.	A. D.	ABROAD.	A. D.
King David II taken prisoner.	1346		
King Edward III invades France at Calais; and Edward the Black Prince in Gascony,		Battle of Cressy (English defeat the French),	1346
War with Scotland,			
First great pestilence in England,	1347–'49	Siege of Calais (taken by the English),	1347
		Charles IV. crowned Emperor of Germany,	1347
The order of the Garter instituted,	1349	The plague rages in Italy	1348–'49
		The Black Death in Europe,	1349
		King Philip of France dies	1350
		John II. King of France,	1350
		Pope Innocent VI.	1352
French war renewed,	1355	Battle of Poitiers (the English victorious over the French; King John	
John Wyclif's writings,	1356	taken prisoner).	1356
		The Peasants' Rebellion (*La Jacquerie* *) in France,	1358
Edward III desolates the north of France,	1359	Peace declared between France and England,	1360
Edward III gives up the title of King of France, and obtains large possessions in northeast and southwest France,	1360	Peace endured,	1360–'69
The second great pestilence,	1361		

* Pronounced zhäk-rē'.

IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.	A. D.	ABROAD.	A. D.
English language used in courts of law, "because the French tongue is much unknown,"	1362	Pope Urban V,	1362
		Charles V, King of France,	1364
The third great pestilence,	1369	War between France and England,	1370
		Pope Gregory XI,	1370
		Wars in which France conquers all the English possessions except Bordeaux, Bayonne, and Calais,	1370–'77
Robert II (Stuart), King of Scotland,	1371		
Edward the Black Prince dies,	1376		
Edward III dies, aged sixty-five,	1377	The Pope returns from Avignon * to Rome,	1377
Richard II, King of England,	1377		
The Bible translated into English by Wyclif about	1380	Pope Clement VII,	1378
		Charles VI, King of France	1380
Battle of Otterburn (Chevy Chase), the Scots victors over the English,	1388	Truce with France,	1389
		Pope Boniface IX,	1389
Robert III, King of Scotland,	1390		
Henry IV, King of England,	1399	Pope Benedict XIII,	1394
Chaucer dies,	1400		

* Pronounced ä-vēn-yôn'. The Pope of Rome lived in this city from 1309 till 1377.

ENGLAND—THE HOUSE OF PLANTAGENET

Edward I, 1272–1307:

|

Edward II, 1307–'27; married Isabel, daughter of Philip IV of France;

|

Edward III, 1327–'77; married Philippa, daughter of William, Count of Hainault; *

Edward the Black Prince; married Joan of Kent;

|

Richard II, 1377–'99; married Anne, daughter of Emperor Charles IV.

FRANCE—THE HOUSE OF VALOIS †

Philip III, 1270–'85:

|

Philip IV, 1285–1314; Charles, Count of Valois;

|

Philip VI, 1328–'50;

Isabel; married Edward II of England;

|

Edward III of England.

Philip V, 1316–'22;

Charles IV, 1322–'28;

---

* Pronounced hā-nō'.

† Pronounced väl-wä'.

KEY TO PRONUNCIATION*

a as in fat, man, pang.
ā as in fate, mane, dale.
ä as in far, father, guard.
â as in fall, talk, naught.
a as in ask, fast, ant.
ã as in fair, hair, bear.
e as in met, pen, bless.
ē as in mete, meet, meat.
ė as in her, fern, heard.
i as in pin, it, biscuit.
ī as in pine, fight, file.
o as in not, on, frog.
ō as in note, poke, floor.
ö as in move, spoon, room.
ô as in nor, song, off.
u as in tub, son, blood.
ū as in mute, acute, few.
u̇ as in pull, book, could.
ü German ü, French u.
oi as in oil, joint, boy.
ou as in pound, proud, now.

A single dot under a vowel in an unaccented syllable indicates its abbreviation and lightening, without absolute loss of its distinctive quality. Thus:

ạ as in prelate, courage.
ẹ as in ablegate, episcopal.
ọ as in abrogate, eulogy, democrat.
ụ as in singular, education.

A double dot under a vowel in an unaccented syllable indicates that, even in the mouths of the best speakers, its sound is variable to, and in ordinary utterance actually becomes, the short *u*-sound (of but, pun, etc.). Thus:

a̤ as in errant, republican.
e̤ as in prudent, difference.
i̤ as in charity, density.
o̤ as in valor, actor, idiot.
ä̤ as in Persia, peninsula.
ṳ̈ as in *the* book.
ṳ̄ as in nature, feature.

A mark (⌣) under the consonants *t*, *d*, *s*, *z* indicates that they in like manner are variable to *ch*, *j*, *sh*, *zh*. Thus:

t̰ as in nature, adventure.
d̰ as in arduous, education.
s̰ as in leisure.
z̰ as in seizure.
n̰ French nasalizing n, as in ton, en.

' denotes a primary, " a secondary accent. (A secondary accent is not marked if at its regular interval of two syllables from the primary, or from another secondary.)

* Taken, with the permission of the Century Company, from the Century Cyclopedia of Names.

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Sir John Froissart
(born 1338, died about 1410).

FROISSART'S CHRONICLES

NOTE FOR THE YOUNG READERS OF THIS BOOK

Once upon a time, about five hundred and fifty years ago, there was a knight named Sir John Froissart,* who lived in Flanders—in the country that we now call Belgium. It came into his mind that he would like to write the history of the great wars between France and Flanders, between France and England, between England and Scotland, and so forth. He had himself been a soldier in some of these wars, and he could describe the battles he had fought in, of course. How was he to describe other battles in other countries?

There was only one way, he thought; and that was, to go to those other countries and there to find some brave soldier who had gone through those other wars. Such a soldier could tell him the story, and Sir John could write it down in his book. This was exactly what he did. He traveled to England, France, Scotland, Prussia, and Italy, and made the acquaint-

* Pronounce this, in English, froi'-särt. The French way is frwä-sär', but you need not use it.

ance of scores of great noblemen and hundreds of brave knights. From each of them he got the story of some battle or adventure; and he kept all these stories in his memory.

"I had," he says, "thanks to God, good understanding and remembrance of everything past, and an intellect clear and keen to seize upon the actions which I could learn."

From time to time he wrote down the history of each war and of each battle in a great book he carried with him; and by and by this book grew to be what he called * "The Chronicles of England, France, Spain, Portugal, Scotland, and other places adjoining." Sometimes he made copies of it, and gave the copies of "this fair book well covered with velvet, with clasps of silver and gilt," to kings or queens or to great nobles, with "great profit and advancement" to himself, he says.

"Now all you that read, have read, or shall read this history, consider in your own minds how I could have known and collected such facts as I treat of concerning so many persons. In truth, I must inform you that I began at the early age of twenty years, and came into the world at the very time these events were happening, in the knowledge of which I have always taken greater pleasure than in anything else. God has been so gracious to me that I have stood well with all parties, and I have been of the house-

* The frontispiece shows Sir John presenting a copy of his book to King Richard II of England.

hold of kings, more especially of King Edward and of the noble Queen Philippa, to whom I, in my youth, was secretary, and amused her by composing handsome ditties and madrigals of love.

"Thus, under the protection of this good lady, I have searched in my time the greater part of Christendom (and in truth he who seeks shall find), and wherever I came I made inquiry after those ancient knights who had been present at these deeds of arms, and who were well able to speak of them. In this manner I have collected the materials for this noble history."

These kings and nobles were very pleased to know that a true history of their famous wars had been written by so wise, brave, and loyal a knight, and they rewarded him with rich presents, and with their friendship.

The language that Sir John Froissart spoke was old French. Here is a sentence from his Chronicle just as he wrote it:

"Sire, nous avons veu et considéré vos ennemis: si poeent estre par estimation ii^{m} hommes d'armes, iiii^{m} arciers et xv^{c} brigans." This means, in English: "Your Majesty, we have looked upon your enemies and considered their number. They may be estimated as two thousand men of arms, four thousand archers, and fifteen hundred men in companies."

King Henry VIII, of England, admired these histories of Sir John's, and about the year 1520 he had them all translated from old French into the English of his day by one of his high noblemen, Lord

Berners. Here are two sentences out of Lord Berners' translation:

"The horses whan they felt ye sharpe arowes, they wolde in no wyse go forward, but drewe aback, and flang and toke on so feersly, that many of them fell on their maisters."

"Syr, quod they, syr Olyuer of Clisson is slayne. Slayne, quod the kynge: and howe so, and who hath done that deed? Syr, quod they, we canne nat tell; but this myschefe is fallen on hym here by in the streate of saynt Kateryn. Well, quod the kynge, light vp your torches; I will go and see hym."

You can probably read these two sentences for yourself, with a little trouble; but if you had to read a whole book written in this fashion you would soon be weary. To save the time and the labor of others, Mr. G. C. Macaulay has lately printed a volume * in which Lord Berners' translation is much simplified. The spelling is made more like that of our own times, and so forth. Here are Mr. Macaulay's versions of the two sentences just given:

"The horses when they felt the sharp arrows they would in no wise go forward, but drew aback and flang and took on so fiercely that many of them fell on their masters."

"'Sir,' quoth they, 'Sir Oliver of Clisson is slain.' 'Slain!' quoth the king, 'and how so, and who hath done that deed?' 'Sir,' quoth they, 'we can not

* The Chronicles of Froissart, translated by Lord Berners, edited by G. C. Macaulay; published by Macmillan and Company, The Globe Edition, 484 pages.

tell; but this mischief is fallen on him hereby in the street of Saint Katherine.' 'Well,' quoth the king, 'light up your torches; I will go and see him.'"

These last sentences are perfectly easy for you to read. You can guess at the meaning of "flang," and "quoth the king" must mean "said the king," of course. But here are other sentences from Mr. Macaulay's version. What can you make out of them?

"And when these knights knew the answer of Don Peter they reputed him right orgulous and presumptuous."

It would be clearer to you if it were written, "They *thought* him very *proud* and presumptuous," would it not?

"The Frenchmen yielded themselves as far off as they might know an Englishman."

It would be clearer to you if it were written, "The Frenchmen yielded themselves *prisoners so soon as* an Englishman *came in sight*," would it not?

There are hundreds and hundreds of sentences in which little changes, like those just marked in Italics, make the text very much easier for you to understand. They do not alter the sense at all; they alter Lord Berners' English very little; they really tell you exactly what Sir John Froissart would say if he were here to-day, speaking our own English to us. Such changes have been made throughout this book whenever they are necessary; and sometimes whole sentences have been left out altogether.

No more changes have been introduced than are needed to make the story perfectly clear. The Eng-

lish language has really changed a great deal since the time of Lord Berners (1520). A great many words that he used are no longer used at all. We do not call a *proud* man "right orgulous." Many words that he employed in one sense mean a different thing to us. We do not call the iron *armor* of a knight his "harness"; we use the word harness for the trappings of a horse.

And the words are put into a sentence nowadays in a very different order from that used by Lord Berners and his master King Henry VIII.

"To the intent that the honorable and noble adventures of feats of arms done and achieved by the wars of France and England should notably be enregistered and put in perpetual memory, whereby the prewe (*brave*) and hardy may have ensample (*an example*) to encourage them in their well-doing, I, Sir John Froissart, will treat and record an history of great louage (*commendation*) and praise."

This is the very first sentence in Froissart's Chronicles. You could not understand it if it were not for the words that have been added in parentheses ( ); and if this sentence were to be written to-day, we should begin at the other end of it and put it somewhat as follows:

"I, Sir John Froissart, intend to write a history of the wars of France and England, so that the honorable and noble feats of arms done in these wars may be brought to notice and recorded, in order that they shall be held in perpetual remembrance. This history will be full of commendation and praise of the valiant knights who did these feats, and brave

and hardy men to-day will find in their deeds an example to encourage them in well-doing."

You see that it is not easy to turn this sentence into modern shape. We understand exactly what Froissart meant to say in 1390, and we understand Lord Berners' words, which were written in 1520. But as we read his book we can not fail to notice two things: *First*, the idea in Froissart's mind about the wars of France and England is not quite the same as our idea; and, *second*, Lord Berners's English words and sentences are not quite our English words and forms.

The main object of the present book is to make it possible for an American schoolboy, in the last years of the nineteenth century, to understand how a brave and learned gentleman of the fourteenth century felt about the wars and adventures of the Age of Chivalry—nearly six centuries ago. This book is written to make it as easy as possible for an American boy to take a look backward into the fourteenth century, when King Edward III and his brave son, Edward the Black Prince, were fighting the Scots on the northern border of England, or the French in Brittany and Normandy.

Only a very small part of Froissart's Chronicles is reprinted here. The chapters that have been selected tell us stories that every American boy ought to know—how King Robert Bruce, dying, begged his "dear especial friend," Lord James Douglas, to carry his heart, in a silver case, to the Holy Land on a pilgrimage; and how Lord Douglas perished in a

battle with the Moors in Spain while he was on that pious mission. They tell the history of the famous victories of the English over the French at Cressy* and Poitiers,† and at the sea fight off the coast of Flanders; of the victory of the young Lord Douglas over Lord Percy at Chevy Chase; and of a crusade against the Saracens in Tunis.

These are honorable and noble adventures and feats of arms done and achieved by our own ancestors, and it is a part of our birthright to know them and to be proud of them. Their English blood runs in our veins to-day, and it helped our own soldiers and sailors to win at Manila and at Santiago.

Froissart says that the Earl Douglas "was young and strong, and of great desire to win praise and grace, and was willing to deserve to have it, and cared for no pain or trouble" in the getting of it. This is the stuff that makes soldiers and sailors. Great captains, great explorers, great heroes are like that. They are willing to *deserve* to have the praise they get.

The English poet Chaucer, who was in the wars of King Edward III in France, and who wrote in 1387, has also described the ideal knight of those days of chivalry:

> "A knight ther was, and that a worthy man,
> That from the tymé that he first bigan
> To ryden out, he lovede chyvalrye.
> Trouthe and honour', fredom and curteisie.
> . . . . . .

* The French name of this battle is Crécy, pronounced krā-sē'.

† Pronounced pwä-tyā'.

The Knight and Squire of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.
(From an old manuscript.)

And though that he was worthy, he was wys,
And of his port as meeke as is a mayde,
He nevere yit no villinye ne sayde
In al his lyf, unto no maner wight.
He was a verray perfit gentil knight."

It is from Chaucer's writings that our modern English takes its rise. You see you can read his verses without any great difficulty. Yet they were written more than five hundred years ago.

This little book will introduce you to the Chronicles of Froissart, and will tell you much. Perhaps it will make you want to know more of him, and to read others of his stories. If it does, you can not do better than to read the Globe Edition of Froissart mentioned (in the footnote) on page 4, or Sidney Lanier's The Boy's Froissart,* where Froissart's stories are given, though not in Froissart's words.

Jean or John Froissart was born near Valenciennes, then a town of Flanders, in the year 1338, and he died in 1410. He was not a very studious lad, but he soon became a poet of some cleverness. His verses were noticed and praised by the nobles of his own country, and afterward by Queen Philippa, wife of Edward III of England, who was born a princess of Hainault, a part of Belgium.

When he visited the English court in 1361 he carried with him a history of the wars of his own time, all written out in verses. He was then about twenty-three years old. So long as Queen Philippa lived she was his friend and patron. When Froissart

* Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, illustrated, 422 pages.

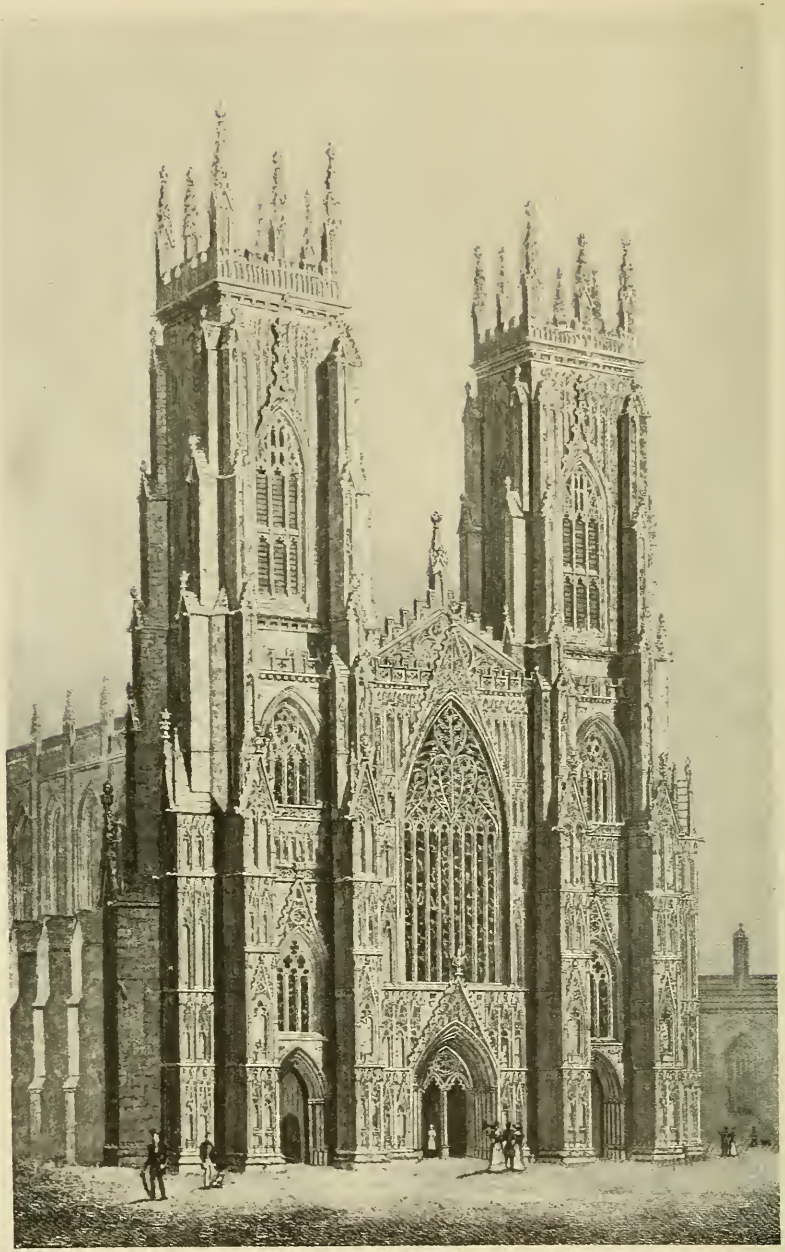
was a very old man he describes her as he knew her years before: "Tall and erect she was, wise, humble, devoted, courteous, endowed with all noble virtues, loved by her people and by God. For since the time of Queen Guinevere, the wife of King Arthur, no such good queen had been in England. As long as she reigned England had only good fortune, prosperity, success, and honor."

The queen encouraged him to go on with the Chronicle, and he made a six months' journey in Scotland. "I, the author of this book," he says, "in my youth had ridden nigh over all the realm (*kingdom*) of Scotland." While he was there he was well received by the king, and by the powerful Earls of Douglas, Fife, Mar, and March. When in later years he writes about the valor and bravery of the Scotch, he is speaking from memory of what he himself saw.

While Froissart was in London he became one of the secretaries of Queen Philippa, and he was often in the company of the nobles who formed the little court of King John of France, then a captive in the English capital.

Froissart's story of that battle comes to us therefore almost from the lips of the French King. From England he went to France, to Italy, and finally settled once more in Flanders.

Here, about the year 1374, Froissart set about composing his Chronicles, this time in prose, not in verse. "The more I work at it," he says, "the better I am pleased with it." His Chronicle ends with the year 1400, but tradition says that Froissart lived



The Cathedral of York, England, built in the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries.

A nation that could imagine and construct buildings like this was religious, intelligent, and civilized.

till the year 1410. This is all that we need to know of the events of his life. There is no better way to understand how he wrote his Chronicles than to read the chapters that tell part of the story of a journey he made in the south of France in 1388 in search of information and adventures. The story is long, but these conversations that were spoken five hundred years ago are as vivid as if it were but yesterday. You can almost hear Sir John telling the tale to you.

Once when I undertook to go to see the diversities of the countries where I had never been before I tarried in the good city of Pamiers,* which belonged to the Earl of Foix, waiting for some company bound for the country of Béarn,† where the earl was.

And I tarried there three days in great pleasure, for the city was delectable (*delightful*), standing among the fair vines, and surrounded by a fair river, large and clear. And on a day it so fortuned that thither came a knight of the Earl of Foix called Sir Espang de Lyon,‡ a valiant and expert man of arms, about the age of fifty years.

And so I got myself into his company, and he was greatly desirous to hear the news from France. And so we were six days in our journey before we came to Orthez, and this knight, every day after he had said his prayers, most part of all the day after he conversed

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* Pronounced pä-myā′. It was the capital city of the county of Foix, pronounced fwä. The count was Gaston de Foix; born 1331, died 1391.

† Pronounced bā-ärn.

‡ Pronounced es-paṅ′-dė-lēôṅ′.

with me; and when I demanded anything of him, he would answer me to my purpose.

And when we departed from Pamiers we passed by the Mount of Cosse, which was an evil passage (*a difficult pass*), and so we came to the town and castle of Artigat,* which was French; but we passed by it, and so came to dinner to a castle of the Earl of Foix called Carlat,† standing high on a mountain.

And after dinner the knight said to me: "Sir, let us ride together fair and easily; we have only two leagues to ride to our lodging"; and thus I was content to do.

Then the knight said: "We have this day passed by the castle of Artigat, which doth much damage in this country. Peter d'Anchin‡ keepeth it; he took it by scaling (*assault*) very subtly, and gained there more than sixty thousand francs."

Then I demanded how that might be. "I will tell you," quoth the knight. "On Lady Day,# in August, there is always a great fair, and all the country resorteth thither, for there is much merchandise.

"That day Peter d'Anchin and his companions were determined to get this town and castle; and so they sent two of their company disguised as servants to the said town in the month of May, to get themselves

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* Pronounced är-tē-gä'.

† Pronounced cär-lä'.

‡ Pronounced Peter dön-shåñ'.

Lady Day is March 25th—the day on which it was announced to "Our Lady," the Virgin Mary, that she was to bear a son, the Saviour.

hired for service in the town. And so they did, and were retained with two masters; and they did right diligent service to their masters, and so went in and out on their masters' business without any suspiciousness of them.

"And so on Lady Day, in August, there were many merchants, strangers of Foix, of Béarn, and of France; and as ye know well, when merchants do meet, after a long absence, they will make good cheer together.

"And so in the same houses where these two varlets (*servants*) were in service were many merchants drinking and making good cheer, and their hosts with them.

"And by appointment, about midnight, Peter d'Anchin and his company came to Artigat and ambushed themselves in a wood.

"And so they sent six varlets (*servants*) to the town with two ladders, and they passed the dikes and came to the walls and reared up their ladders, and the other two varlets that were in service in the town did aid them, while their masters sat making good cheer.

"So one of the said two varlets brought the other six to the gate within, where there were two men keeping the keys.

"Then this varlet said to the other six: 'Sirs, keep yourselves here hidden and close, and stir not till ye hear me whistle. I trust to make the porters open the gates; they have the keys of the great gate, and therefore as soon as they have opened I will whistle. Then step forth and slay the porters. I know well enough the keys of the gate, for I have ofttimes helped to keep the gate with my master.'

"And as they planned, so they did. And so the varlet went to the gate and saw and heard how the porters were drinking within their guardhouse.

"Then he called them by their names, and said: 'Sirs, open your door. I have brought you the best wine that ever you drank, which my master hath sent you to the intent you should keep your watch the better.'

"And they, who knew right well the varlet, believed that he said truth, and opened the door; and then he whistled, and the other six stepped forth and entered in at the door, and there they slew the porters so secretly that none knew thereof.

"Then they took the keys and went and opened the gate, and let down the bridge easily, so that none knew thereof. Then they blew a blast in a horn, so that they that were ambushed mounted their horses and came spurring, and entered on the bridge and came into the town, and so took all the men of the town sitting drinking, or else in their beds. Thus was Artigat taken by Peter d'Anchin and by his companions of Lourdes." *

Then I demanded of the knight how they got the castle. "I shall show you," quoth he. "The same time that Artigat was thus taken, the captain of the castle, by his ill-luck, was in the town and supped with certain merchants, and was there taken among others.

"And the next morning Peter d'Anchin brought him out in front of the castle, where his wife and

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* Pronounced lörd.

children were, and made them believe that he would strike off his head unless his wife would deliver up the castle; and if she would so do, he promised to spare her husband, and to suffer him and all his to depart with bag and baggage, without any hurt.

"And the lady saw herself in a hard case, and saw she was not able to make war herself, and to save her husband's life she yielded up the castle. And so her husband and she, and all theirs, departed and went to Pamiers.

"Thus Peter d'Anchin had the town and castle of Artigat; and the same time that they entered, he and his company won above thirty thousand francs in merchandise and prisoners of France.* And this Peter d'Anchin kept Artigat for five years, and he and his company did great damage to the country, as well by ransoming of the towns as by pillage over all the country.

"About the same time that Peter d'Anchin was in Artigat, on a night, certain of his company went out and came to a castle a good league thence, whereof a French knight called Raymond was owner. They had been there often before and failed to take it, but then their luck was such that they scaled the castle and took it, and the knight and the lady in their beds, and let the lady and her children go free, but they kept the knight in his own castle the space of four months, and at last he paid a thousand francs for his ransom.

* Each prisoner taken paid a ransom to go free: and so the prisoners were worth money, just as if they also had been merchandise.

"And finally, when they had sore overridden the country, they sold these two castles to the lords of the country for eight thousand francs, and then they went to Lourdes, their principal garrison. So these knights did put themselves daily in risk and danger.

"Also the same time there was an expert man of arms in the Castle of Lourdes, a Gascon born; he was called the Mongat of Sainte-Bazeille.* On a time he and thirty with him departed from Lourdes and rode into the country of Toulouse, and thought to have got the castle of Penne, but he failed to capture it.

"When he saw that he failed of his purpose, he came to the gate and made a great scrimmish (*skir-mish*). And the same hour the seneschal of Toulouse rode forth, and with him Sir Hugh of Froideville† and sixty spears, and came by chance to Penne while the said scrimmish was going on.

"Then incontinent (*immediately*) they set foot to the earth and came to the barriers; and so then the Mongat was overmatched, but there he fought valiantly hand to hand, and wounded the other knight in two or three places.

"Howbeit, finally he was taken by force, and his men either taken or slain; there were but a few that escaped.

"So this Mongat was led to Toulouse, and then the common people of the town would have slain him in the hands of the seneschal. He had much pain to save his life, and so they brought him into

* Pronounced môñ-gä'-dė-sānt-bä-zāl'.

† Pronounced froid-vēl'.

the castle, for he was right evil beloved (*well hated*) in Toulouse.

"Yet afterward it happened so well for him that the Duke of Berry came thither, and this knight had such friends that he was delivered, and the seneschal had a thousand francs for his ransom; and when he was delivered he returned to Lourdes and began again to make new enterprises.

"And so on a time he departed from Lourdes with four others with him without any armor, and he put on the clothes of a monk and took three monks with him; and they had all shaven crowns, so that every man that saw them thought surely that they were monks, the habit and gesture became them so well.

"And in this manner he came to Montpellier,* and took up his lodging at the sign of the Angel (*this was an inn*), and said he was an abbot of Gascony, and was going to Paris on certain business; and so he got familiar acquaintance with a rich man of the town called Berenger, who had also to do certain business at Paris.

"Then this abbot said how he would pay his expenses if he chose to go in his company, whereof the good man was right joyous; so he and one varlet (*servant*) with him went forth with this monk.

"And when they had ridden three leagues this counterfeit monk Sir Mongat took him prisoner, and led him by secret ways to his garrison of Lourdes, and afterward did ransom him at five thousand francs."

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* Pronounced môñ-pel-lyā'.

Then I said: "Ah, Saint Mary! was this Mongat such an expert man of arms?" "Yea, truly, sir," quoth he, "and in war he died, in a place we shall pass within three days in a country called the Laire." "Well, sir," quoth I, "and I shall remind you thereof when we come there."

And so we rode till we passed the river of Garonne with great pain and peril; for the boat that we were in was very small; . . . and we came near to a castle called Mascaras,* in the country of Laire.

Then the knight said to me, "Sir John, behold here the place of Laire." And I beheld it well, and looked upon the country, which seemed to me right strange. I should have thought myself lost there if I had not been in company with that knight.

Then I remembered the words this knight had spoken two or three days before of that country of Laire, and of the Mongat of Lourdes.

Then I said to him, "Sir, ye said that when we should be in the country of Laire that ye would tell me concerning the Mongat of Lourdes, and how he died." "It is true, sir," quoth the knight; "come on and ride with me, and I will tell you."

Then I rode near him to hear his words; and then he said: "Sir, in the season that Peter d'Anchin held the castle and garrison of Artigat, they of the garrison of Lourdes sometimes rode forth at adventure far from their garrison. Howbeit, they had not

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* Pronounced mäs-kä-rä'.

always the advantage, for there were always many men of war in all French towns and garrisons.

"And when these garrisons knew that they of Lourdes rode out, then they would lay bushments (*ambushes*) for them, and sometimes take from them of Lourdes their prey and pillage, and sometimes they escaped without any encounter.

"And on a time it chanced that Ernaulton of Sainte-Colomme* and the Mongat of Saint-Corneille† and six score spearmen departed from Lourdes, and so rode near to Toulouse.

"And at their returning they found in the meadows a great number of beasts, oxen and kine, hogs, muttons and lambs; and also they took divers of the good men of the country prisoners, and so drove all their prey before them.

"Then it was showed to the captain of the town of Tarbes, a squire of Gascony, called Ernaulton Bisette, an expert man of arms, how they of the garrison of Lourdes were abroad and were coming homeward with a great prey.

"Then he sent to the lord of Benac, and also to the lord of Barbazan, telling them he meant to ride out against them of Lourdes. The knights and squires of the country agreed to ride forth, and assembled together at Tournay, and with them there was the bourg of Spain,‡ who came from his garrison of

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* Pronounced ăr-nō-tōn′-dė-sānt-kō-lôṅ′.

† Pronounced môṅ-gä′-dė-sānt-kōr-nāy′.

‡ This was the title of one of the knights.

Saint-Béat;* so they were to the number of two hundred spears, and they had their spies abroad in the country to know what they of Lourdes were doing.

"On the other side, they of Lourdes had abroad their spies, to know if any men of war were abroad to hinder them in their enterprise; and the spies were so vigilant that each party knew what the other did.

"When they of Lourdes knew how they of the French garrisons were abroad and tarried for them at Tournay, then they were in doubt, and took counsel what they might best do to save their booty.

"Then they determined to divide their company in two; one company to drive before them their prey with all their varlets (*servants*), and to go secretly by the bridge of Tournay, and the other company to ride in battle by the mountains and to pretend to go again into the country of Laire by Mascaras, and they said, 'Then we shall be soon at Lourdes.'

"Thus as they agreed, so they did; and the *sieur*† of Harnes and the Red Squire, and forty spears with all their varlets, with all their prey, took the way by the bridge near Tournay.

"And the other company, Ernaulton of Rostem, Ernaulton of Sainte-Colomme, and the Mongat of Saint-Corneille, with four score men of arms, made themselves ready and rode close together, ever looking for their enemies, for they knew well they were abroad to watch for them.

"In like manner as they of Lourdes had taken

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* Pronounced saṅ-bā'-ä.

† Pronounced sē-ėr.

The combat of thirty Englishmen against as many Frenchmen in Brittany.

advice and counsel how to return, in like wise the Frenchmen took counsel how they might encounter their enemies; and the Sieur of Barbazan and Ernaulton Bisette said to their company: 'Sirs, we know well how they of Lourdes are abroad in the fields and drive before them great prey and many prisoners. It would be a great displeasure to us if they should escape; therefore let us put ourselves into two bushments (*ambushes*); we have men enough so to do.'

"Then it was ordered that Ernaulton and the bourg of Spain, Sir Raymond of Benac, with a hundred spears should keep the passage of the river at Tournay; for they knew well that they of Lourdes with their prey must needs pass the river of Lesse. And it was ordered that the lord of Barbazan and Ernaulton Bisette, with a hundred spears, should ride forth to seek their enemies.

"So thus they departed, and the lord of Benac and the bourg of Spain put themselves in a bushment on the road to Tournay; and the other company took the same road that we are now in, which is called the Laire.

"And here they met with the men of Lourdes; and when each of them saw the other, they alighted and made them ready to fight, and so came each against other, crying their war cries, 'Saint George, Lourdes!' and the other, 'Our Lady of Bigorre!'

"And so there each came to other with hand strokes, thrusting with their spears each at other; and as I heard reported by them that were there, at the

first shock there was no one overthrown; and so when each of them had a great space (*time*) thrust each at other, they cast down their spears and took their axes, and gave therewith each to other great and horrible strokes, every man with his adversary, and in that manner they fought together more than two hours.

"And when any of them had fought so long that they lacked breath, then they would fair and easily depart, and go sit down by a dike side that was full of water and put off their bassenets (*helmets*) and refresh themselves; and when they were well refreshed, they put on their bassenets and returned again to fight.

"I believe there was not such a business, nor a battle so well fought since the battle that was in Bretayne of thirty against as many, as this was here at Mascaras in Bigorre.

"Thus they fought hand to hand, and Ernaulton of Sainte-Colomme was at the point to have been discomfited (*defeated*) by a squire of the country called Guillonet.* This Ernaulton of Sainte-Colomme had a varlet (*servant*), who stood by and saw the battle and fought not, for there was none that said anything to him; and when he saw his master almost at the last gasp, he was sorry, and so came to his master and took his axe out of his hands, and said: 'Ernaulton, go your way and rest you; ye can no longer fight.'

"And then he with the axe went to the squire and

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* Pronounced güē-yôn-ā'.

gave him such a stroke on the head that he was stunned, and had nearly fallen to the earth.

"When Guillonet felt himself stricken, he was sore displeased, and came against the varlet to have stricken him; but the varlet stepped under the stroke and embraced the squire, who was sore wearied with so long fighting, and so the varlet overthrew him by wrestling.

"Then the varlet said, 'I shall slay thee, unless thou wilt yield thyself to my master.' 'Who is thy master?' quoth the squire. 'Ernaulton of Sainte-Colomme,' quoth the varlet, 'with whom thou hast fought all this time.'

"The squire saw that he was under the varlet, who had a dagger ready to strike him; so he yielded, promising to surrender himself prisoner at Lourdes within fifteen days after, rescue or no rescue.

"This service did this varlet to his master; and, Sir John, I assure you there were many feats of arms done, and many overthrown and taken prisoners, some promising to yield themselves at Tarbes* and some to come to Lourdes.

"They fought this day hand to hand, Ernaulton Bisette with the Mongat of Saint-Bazeille; they did many a feat of arms between them, and they fought so long, till they were so weary that they could aid themselves no longer; and there were slain on the place two captains, the Mongat of Lourdes, and of the other party, Ernaulton Bisette.

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* Pronounced tärb.

"Then ceased the battle by agreement of both parties, for they were so weary that they could scarcely hold their axes in their hands. Some took off their armor to refresh themselves and left their armor in the place. To the intent that this battle should be held in memory where the two squires fought, a cross of stone was set up. Behold, yonder is the cross!"

And with those words we came to the cross, and there we said for their souls a *Paternoster** and an *Ave Maria.*†

"By my faith, sir," quoth I, "I am glad I have heard this, for this was a sharp business. But, sir, what became of them that went with the prey?" "I shall show you," quoth he. "They came near to Tournay, as they had arranged; and there they found the ambushed men of the bourg of Spain, who brake out of their bushment, and they of Lourdes could not turn back; they had no remedy but to fight.

"And I tell you truth, there was as sore a fight and as long endured, or longer, than that at Mascaras; and there Ernaulton of Spain did marvelous in arms.

"He had an axe in his hand; whosoever he struck therewith went to the earth, for he was big and well made and not overburdened with much flesh. He took there with his own hands the two captains, and there was slain a squire of Navarre called Ferrando, who was an expert man of arms. Some that were at

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* The Lord's Prayer in Latin: *Paternoster* = Our Father.

† A prayer to the Virgin Mary: *Ave Maria* = Hail, Mary.

Froissart welcomed by Gaston, Count of Foix,
in his palace of Orthez.

Froissart kneels before the count. His page carries a copy of his book. Notice the arched ceiling of the palace and the tapestries on the walls. The plate shows the costumes of the time. One of the figures (the third from the left) is the court fool.

the fight said that the bourg of Spain slew him, and some said he was overcome by heat in his armor.

"Finally the prey was rescued and all taken or slain that went therewith; there were but three who saved themselves, and they were varlets (*servants*) who departed and went over the river of Lesse.* Thus ended this adventure."

"Ah, Saint Mary! sir," quoth I, "is the bourg of Spain so big a man as ye speak of?" "Yea, sir, truly," quoth he, "for in all Gascony there is none like him in strength of body; therefore the Earl of Foix hath him ever in his company.

"Not three years ago he did in a sport a great deed, as I shall tell you. So it was, on a Christmas day the Earl of Foix held a great feast and a plentiful company of knights and squires, as it is his custom.

"And it was a cold day, and the earl dined in the hall, and with him a great company of lords; and after dinner he departed out of the hall and went up into a gallery twenty-four stairs in height, in which gallery there was a great chimney, wherein they made fire when the earl was there; and at that time there was but a small fire, for the earl loved no great fire.

"The same day it was a great frost and very cold; and when the earl was in the gallery and saw that the fire was little, he said to the knights and squires about him, 'Sirs, this is but a small fire and the day so cold.' Then Ernaulton of Spain went down the

* Pronounced Lesse, as one syllable.

stairs, and beneath in the court he saw a great many donkeys laden with wood to serve the house.

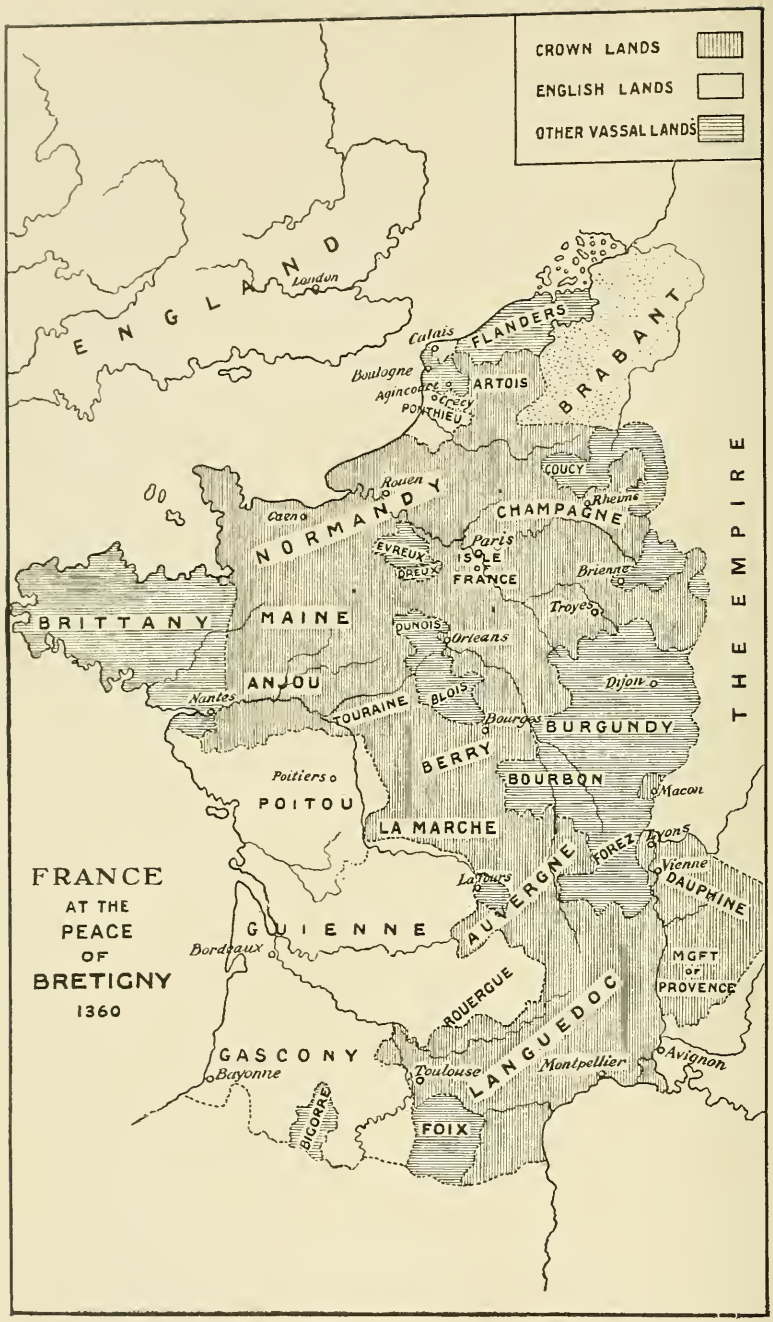
"Then he went and took one of the largest of the donkeys with all the wood, and laid him on his back, and went up all the stairs into the gallery and did cast down the donkey with all the wood into the chimney and the donkey's feet upward. Whereof the Earl of Foix had great joy, and so had all they that were there, and had marvel of his strength, how he alone came up all the stairs with the donkey and the wood on his neck."

I took great pleasure in this tale and in others that this knight Sir Espang de Lyon told me, whereby I thought my journey much the shorter: and in telling of these matters we passed the Pass of Laire and the Castle of Mascaras, whereat the battle was, and so we rode near to the Castle of Barbazan, which is strong and fair and is within a league of Tarbes, which we saw before us, and a fair road coasting the river of Lesse coming from the mountains.

And so Sir John goes on his journey hearing stories and telling them, friendly with his friend, polite to all men, eager to know everything, anxious to set it down in writing in his great book.

"All these matters that Sir Espang de Lyon told me right well contented me; and every night as soon as we were at our lodgings I wrote all that I heard in the day, to have all in memory, for writing is the best memory that may be."

Now after five hundred years we read his Chron-



Map showing the English possessions in France in 1360.

icles, and it seems as if he were speaking to us, so fresh and vivid are his stories.

It is as if one of our own friends had returned from the war in Cuba or in the Philippines, and was telling us his adventures just as they happened day by day. We shall be fortunate to have a friend as sincere, as loyal, as candid, as charming as Sir John.

"The Hundred Years' War" between France and England

Edward III was crowned King of England and Lord of Ireland in A. D. 1327. He was also, by inheritance, Duke of Aquitaine, Duke of Guienne,* and Earl of Ponthieu † in France. He was a vassal of the French King as Duke of Aquitaine, just as the Duke of Normandy, the king's own son and heir, was a vassal. If you will look at the map, you will see how the English King's possessions stood in 1360 after he had won more lands in France by the campaigns of Cressy (1346) and Poitiers (1356).

King Edward claimed the crown of France as his own, because his mother, Queen Isabel of England, was the sister of Louis X, Philip V, and Charles IV, three brothers, all kings of France. They all died while she was yet alive; and no one of them left a son; so Edward III of England, her son, claimed to be King of France by her right.

There was not the slightest justice in his claim.

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* Pronounced gē-en'. † Pronounced pôn-tyē'.

Each of the three kings, her brothers, had left a daughter; and if any woman could have rights to the crown, the claims of these daughters were stronger than the claim of Queen Isabel. But King Edward felt powerful enough to make successful war on France, and he did so. The English nation supported him. The glorious victories of Cressy and Poitiers encouraged the English and dazzled their imaginations. The possession of Calais was a great advantage to them also. Bordeaux, in southern France, and Calais, far in the north of France, were great seats of trade and commerce.

The war began in this way: Flanders and England were closely connected in trade and business. King Philip VI of France forced Flanders to expel all English merchants from the country. Then King Edward, in 1336, forbade the English merchants to send their wool into Flanders. The Flemings were weavers, and made fine cloths for all Europe. If the supply of wool were cut off they could make no cloth. They must starve. So the Flemish people rose in rebellion, drove out the Count of Flanders (who was a vassal of the French King), and set up a government of their own. Philip van Artevelde,* an able man, who was a brewer in Ghent,† was the head of their new government, and he made an alliance with England and agreed to fight the French. Then, again, the French King coveted the English lands in the south-

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* Pronounced är'-te-vel-de.

† Pronounced gent. It was the capital city of Flanders.

Hunting with hounds.
(From an old French tapestry.)

west parts of France, and it was plain to all that he wished to force the English into a war.

In 1337 the English won a great sea-fight near Flanders and defeated the French fleet. The story of this victory is told by Froissart in Chapter XV of this book. It was then that Edward the Third earned his title of "King of the Sea," given to him by his admiring subjects.

After a long truce, the war broke out again in Brittany (see the map) in 1341. Then came another truce, and then the glorious victory of Cressy in 1346. In 1347 the town of Calais was taken, and the English held it till 1558, more than two hundred years.

King Philip of France died in 1350, and his son John "the Good" succeeded him. In 1356 Edward the Black Prince, the son of King Edward III, won the battle of Poitiers (see the map) in Poitou* and carried the French King away prisoner to London. In 1360 peace was made, and the King of England was acknowledged to be master of Gascony, Aquitaine, and other parts of France in his own right. He no longer held his French possessions as a vassal of the French King.

He, on his part, gave up his claim to be the King of France, and also his claim to possess the country of Normandy in northeastern France. King John was to be released on payment of three million gold crowns, but this ransom was so large that he never could raise it, and he died a prisoner. The map

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* Pronounced pwä-tō'.

shows the state of affairs in France in 1360. You should look at it carefully, for it explains many things.

All the regions marked with vertical lines |||| belong to the King of France. He is lord over them. The kings had gained all these lands and many more by conquest in war, or by inheritance. But they had given away vast estates to the princes, their relatives; and these princes or dukes were petty kings themselves. The regions thus granted or given away are marked on the map by horizontal lines ≡, as Brittany, Burgundy, etc. There were other powerful noblemen, not royal princes, who held their lands almost as if they too were kings. Their lands are also shaded ≡, as Foix, Flanders, etc. The lands of the Duke of Brabant are marked with little dots: ⋮⋮⋮⋮ Finally, the possessions of the King of England are left unshaded—white. Aquitaine, Guienne, and Gascony belonged to the English King before the war. Poitou and Calais came as the results of conquest. You should look out the situations of the principal places spoken of in this book: Cressy (in northeastern France); Poitiers (in western France); Caen* (in Normandy); Sluys† (in the extreme northeast, near the sea); Agincourt‡ (not spoken of here, but it is famous as the site of a great victory by King Henry V of England in 1415).

In the meantime the King of France remained a

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* Pronounced koṅ. † Pronounced slois.

‡ Pronounced aj′-in-kōrt in English; äzh-aṅ-kör′ in French.

prisoner in London. The English demanded a ransom from him too great for him to pay, and he died in London, a captive, in 1364. King David of Scotland was also a prisoner in England about this time (from 1346 to 1357). Both these kings were treated well, and they had much liberty and luxury, but they were captives.

Charles V, son of John, became King of France. In 1369 he broke the treaty of 1360, and there was war till 1375. In 1377 King Edward III of England died, and King Charles began the war again with great vigor. In three years he had driven the English out of every town in France, excepting only the fortified places of Bayonne,* Bordeaux, Brest, Cherbourg, and Calais.† King Charles died, too soon for France, in 1380. From his death until the year 1413 France was torn by civil wars, and was miserable and almost helpless.

Froissart's Chronicles go no further than 1400, but it will be worth while to set down some of the events that followed. Henry V of England, a valiant king, came to the throne in 1413. He invaded France in 1415 and took the seaport of Harfleur, and then retreated toward Calais with his stout army of twenty thousand men. At Agincourt the French forced him to fight an army of eighty thousand men that they had hastily collected, and Henry V won a battle as glorious as Cressy and Poitiers.

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* Pronounced bä-yon'. The bayonet was invented here.

† Pronounced kä-lā' in French: kal'-is in English.

Shakespeare, in his play of Henry V, tells the story of this campaign, and you should read this play. It is not exactly history, but it shows what most Englishmen in Shakespeare's time believed to be the true story of the victory.

In 1419 Henry V made another campaign in France and conquered Normandy. A peace was made. Henry married Catherine, the daughter of the French King, Charles VI, and it was agreed that, after the death of Charles, Henry should be King of France, and his children after him. Here, at last, it seemed that England and France were to be one kingdom.

But Henry V of England died in 1422, leaving a son, Henry VI, a mere baby. King Charles of France died only seven weeks later, and left a son, Charles VII, then nineteen years old. There were two kings in France. The French King had no power, no army, no money. The English were strong, rich, and masters of a great part of France.

Now occurred one of the miracles of history. In a little village of France an unlearned country girl, Joan of Arc, heard voices from heaven, she said, bidding her, a peasant, to rescue France and to set the French King on his throne. She proclaimed her mission; bishops and captains and noblemen believed her to be sent by Heaven. The king followed her advice; the disorderly mob of soldiers obeyed her least word; she roused France to the support of the rightful king. After winning many battles for him she was captured, and then burned

French arms and armor of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries.

(The English armor and costume were much the same.)

No. 20, a knight's armor (end of the twelfth century).
No. 22, a knight banneret (beginning of the fourteenth century).
No. 23, a man at arms, about 1350.
No. 18, foot soldier, about 1350.
No. 21, chief of the military police of Paris, about 1350.
Nos. 1, 2, 3, 10, 12, shields (twelfth century).
No. 19, sword (twelfth century).
No. 8, saddle (twelfth century).
No. 4, helmet (end of the eleventh century).
No. 5, helmet (beginning of the thirteenth century).
No. 13, helmet (thirteenth century).
No. 9, helmet (foot soldier, fifteenth century).
No. 7, helmet (used at tournaments in the fourteenth century).
No. 6, helmet (English, fifteenth century).

at the stake in 1431. But the spirit she had raised was not dead.

In 1436 King Charles entered his capital city of Paris for the first time in his reign. Wars and pestilences had so desolated it that packs of wolves roamed in the streets, attacking travelers who went alone or in small bands. This picture of the misery of the chief city of France shows the desolation and wretchedness of the whole kingdom after it had been wasted by plagues and spoiled by a century of war. In 1449 Normandy was taken from the English, and in 1453 every foot of French soil was ruled by the French King excepting only the town of Calais and the country round about it. The Hundred Years' War was at last at an end.

There are a few things to be said that will help you to understand the feelings of men in those days. In the first place, you must remember that the code of honor called *chivalry* came into full force about the time of the Crusades to the Holy Land. Each warrior was a knight. He was clad in complete armor, and bore a coat of arms to distinguish him and his family. He was in honor bound to be brave in battle; to defend all women from harm; to fight for the right; to preserve his heritage for his heirs; to be courteous; to do his full duty. A good knight was one who did all these things. His coat of arms must have no stain on it.

Edward III was enthusiastic for all the forms and shows of chivalry, and delighted in hunting, in tournaments, and in all knightly exercises. Yet it

was in his time that chivalry began to decline. Gunpowder commenced to be used in his wars in France. His cannon threw little balls weighing three or four ounces only; but these light projectiles killed knights as well as footmen, and there was no form or ceremony about it at all. The use of gunpowder increased, and by and by, about 1575, the arquebus and musket came into use, and entirely changed all warfare.

Chivalry, as Edward III understood it, was quite dead in the sixteenth century. It began to die in his own time. An entirely new idea about military valor came in with gunpowder. The armor of a knight was a protection against arrows, but not against bullets. The knight was very much superior to the archer, but not so very much superior to the musketeer. A man in armor on horseback might ride over ranks of footmen, but any one who could pull a trigger was his equal in later days. Gunpowder made the weak man equal to a giant of strength. Courage came to mean a different thing.

In England there was another great reason for the decline of chivalry. Chivalry was founded on the belief that there was an immense difference between the knight and the yeoman, or the yeoman's son, who might be an archer in the ranks.

In France this difference between the two classes of men lasted a long time. But in England the citizens of the towns, the members of guilds of tradesmen, the tenants of rich farms, the dealers in wool and grain, had gained much liberty. Their rights

Shooting at Butts, (1340.)
(Loutrell Psalter.)

An English boat.
(From a manuscript of the fourteenth century.)

were respected. Their interests were represented, to some degree, in the English House of Commons, and it was Parliament that decided whether the king should go to war, and how much money he should have to support his army.

Then, again, in the wars in France, the English knight often fought on foot alongside of the English archer. Small English armies gained great victories over immense hosts of Frenchmen at Cressy, Poitiers, and Agincourt. And the men who had stood shoulder to shoulder against such odds grew to know and to respect each other. Everything conspired to make the English nation solid in war and in peace. Englishmen quickly grew to be proud of their nation, and of every part of it.

England was not a learned nation in those days. There were not many books. Wyclif's translation of the Bible into English was made in 1380, and copies of it were everywhere. Of course, there was no *printing* before 1455. All books were manuscripts. Chaucer's poems were written about the same time. He was himself a soldier in Edward III's wars with France. Many of the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge were founded before 1350. The great cathedrals of England were built or building.

But if England was not a land of "learned clerks," it was a land of freedom and comfort, and was beginning to be a land of luxury and leisure. As soon as a nation has security and leisure, the arts, the sciences, and literature are born. The church architecture of England was noble and grand. Manu-

scripts were beautifully illuminated with pictures; there were statues of metal gilded; much gold and silver plate; fine metal work and jewelry; handsome tapestries and embroideries.

England was an agricultural country and raised grain and wool in plenty. In 1331 Edward III brought weavers from Flanders, and the making of cloths was begun in England. The fisheries and mines were important, too, and commerce with Calais and southwestern France grew to be so. The mariner's compass was introduced into Europe about A. D. 1300, and this made long voyages safe. England became the great naval power of the world.

It was in Edward III's time, too, that the English language began to replace the French that Froissart and other scholars spoke. It was introduced into the law courts in 1362, because "the French tongue was much unknown." Even before Edward's reign complaint was made that "children in school, against the usage and manner of all other nations, are compelled to leave their own language and to construe their lessons in French." The great English poet, Chaucer, wrote in English, and not in French, and he laid the foundations of the tongue we speak to-day. The nation was proud of its place in the world; it felt itself a unit; and the adoption of the English as the only speech marked its growth to full manhood.

The whole of Europe was swept by a pestilence (the plague) that came from Egypt and reached England in 1347. Nearly half the population of Eng-

Costumes of women in the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries.

The figure on the left is Marguerite de Beaujeu, who died in 1351. The next is an unknown lady of the fourteenth century. The next is the Lady Anne, dauphine of Auvergne. The fourth from the left is the valiant lady, Joan of Flanders, Countess of Montfort (see Chapter XVII). The next is a maid of honor of the dauphine of Auvergne. The last is a portrait (not authentic) of Heloise, beloved of Abelard (she died 1163).

land died of it in 1347–'49; another plague came in 1361, and another in 1369.

The pictures throughout the book show the costumes of men and women of those times. The rich dressed in cloth of gold or of silver, in velvets, silks, and furs. The poorer classes were clothed in homespun cloths.

People ate two principal meals a day then: a "dinner" that came at our breakfast time, and a "supper" in the evening.

King Edward III of England.

THE CHRONICLES OF FROISSART

NOTE.—When these Chronicles are read aloud, everything within parentheses ( ) is to be omitted.

PROLOGUE

Here beginneth the prologue of Sir John Froissart to the Chronicles of France, England, and other places adjoining.

CHAPTER I

HERE SPEAKETH THE AUTHOR OF CERTAIN VALIANT KNIGHTS TO BE MADE MENTION OF IN THIS BOOK

ALL noble hearts to encourage and to show them examples to follow and matter of honor to consider, I, Sir John Froissart, begin to speak of the Wars of France and England. Now, I trust ye shall hear reported the true cause of these wars, and I will not forget, diminish, or abridge the history in any way, but rather I will multiply and increase it, following the truth from point to point in speaking, and showing all the adventures since the nativity (*birth*) of the noble King Edward the Third.

He reigned King of England and achieved many perilous adventures since the year of our Lord God

MCCCXXVII, when this noble king was crowned in England. Such persons as were with him in his battles and happy fortunate adventures ought to be reputed valiant and worthy of renown. And though there were great plenty of other personages that ought to be praised as sovereigns, yet principally ought to be renowned the noble person of the foresaid gentle* king, also the Prince of Wales his son,† the Duke of Lancaster, Sir Raynold Lord Cobham, Sir Walter of Manny of Hainault,‡ Sir John Chandos, and divers others, of whom is made mention hereafter in this present book. For in all battles they were always famous, both by land and by sea.

They in all their deeds were so valiant that they

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* Gentle = of noble race: whence our word gentleman, meaning a person of good family. Edward the Third came to the throne while he was a mere boy. He was enthusiastic about hunting, all chivalric sports, and war, and he was a brave and good soldier. He was graceful, of winning manners, ambitious, liberal in giving, but rather cold and hard of heart. At first his wars were popular in England because they brought riches home. "There was not a woman in England that did not wear some ornament or have in her house some linen or some goblet, part of the booty sent back from the king from France." His foreign wars kept his powerful barons occupied abroad, and left them less time for rebellions at home.

† Edward "the Black Prince" (he wore black armor) was born in 1330. He inherited the bravery, ambition, and political wisdom of his father, and something of the kindliness of his mother, though he could be very cruel, stern, and arbitrary at times. He was the first person created Prince of Wales (the title of the heir to the English throne), and he was the first duke in England (Duke of Cornwall, 1337).

‡ Pronounced hā-nō'.

Coronation of an English king.

(From a manuscript of the fourteenth century.)

ought to be reputed as sovereigns in all chivalry; yet, for all that, others that were in their company ought not to be less prized. Also in France in that time there were found many good knights, strong and well expert in feats of arms.

For the realm (*kingdom*) of France was not so discomfited (*beaten*) but that always there were many brave knights to fight; and King Philip of Valois was a right hardy and a valiant knight, and also King John his son,* John the King of Bohemia, the Earl of Foix,† Sir Saintré,‡ and divers others of whom hereafter right well shall be made mention in time and place convenient, where I shall say the truth and maintain the same.

CHAPTER II

THE CORONATION OF KING EDWARD THE THIRD

In the year of our Lord MCCCXXVI, when Christmas was come, there was a great court held in London. And thither came dukes, earls, barons, knights, and all the nobles of the realm (*kingdom*), with bishops and the citizens of the good towns.

* King Philip the Sixth of the royal house of Valois (pronounced väl-wä′) came to the throne in 1328. He died in 1350, and was succeeded by his son, King John the Good, who was taken prisoner by the English at the battle of Poitiers (pronounced pwä-tyā′) in 1356, and died in London in 1364.

† Pronounced fwä. ‡ Pronounced säñ-trā′.

At this assembly it was agreed that the realm could not long endure without a head and a chief lord. Then they put in writing all the deeds of the king, who was in prison (Edward the Second), and all his evil behavings, and how evil he had governed his realm. Wherefore they concluded that such a man was not worthy to be a king, nor to bear a crown royal, nor to have the name of a king.

But they all agreed that Edward, his eldest son, should be crowned king instead of his father, so that the realm from thenceforth might be better governed. And thus as it was agreed by all the nobles, so it was accomplished. And then was crowned with a crown royal, at the palace of Westminster, the young King Edward the Third, who in his life afterward was right fortunate in war. This coronation was in the year of our Lord MCCCXXVII, when the young king was about the age of sixteen.

(Scots.) (English.)

Expedition of Edward III against the Scots.

PART I

THE WAR WITH THE SCOTS (1327)

CHAPTER III

HOW KING ROBERT BRUCE OF SCOTLAND DEFIED KING EDWARD

Then it so fortuned that King Robert of Scotland, who had been right hardy against Englishmen, and oftentimes had been chased and discomfited in the time of King Edward the First, grandfather to this young King Edward the Third, was then become very old and ancient and sick. When he knew the adventures that had befallen in England, how that the old King Edward the Second was taken and deposed down from his royalty and crown, then he bethought him that he would defy King Edward the Third, because he was young and that the barons of the realm (*kingdom*) were not all of one accord (*in agreement*).

And so, about Easter in the year of our Lord MCCCXXVII, he sent his defiance to the young King Edward the Third, sending word how he would enter into the realm of England and burn all before him, as he had done beforetime.

When the King of England and his Council perceived that they were defied, they caused it to be known over all the realm (*kingdom*), and commanded that all the nobles and all other men should be ready appareled, and that they should be, by Ascension Day * next after, at the town of York.

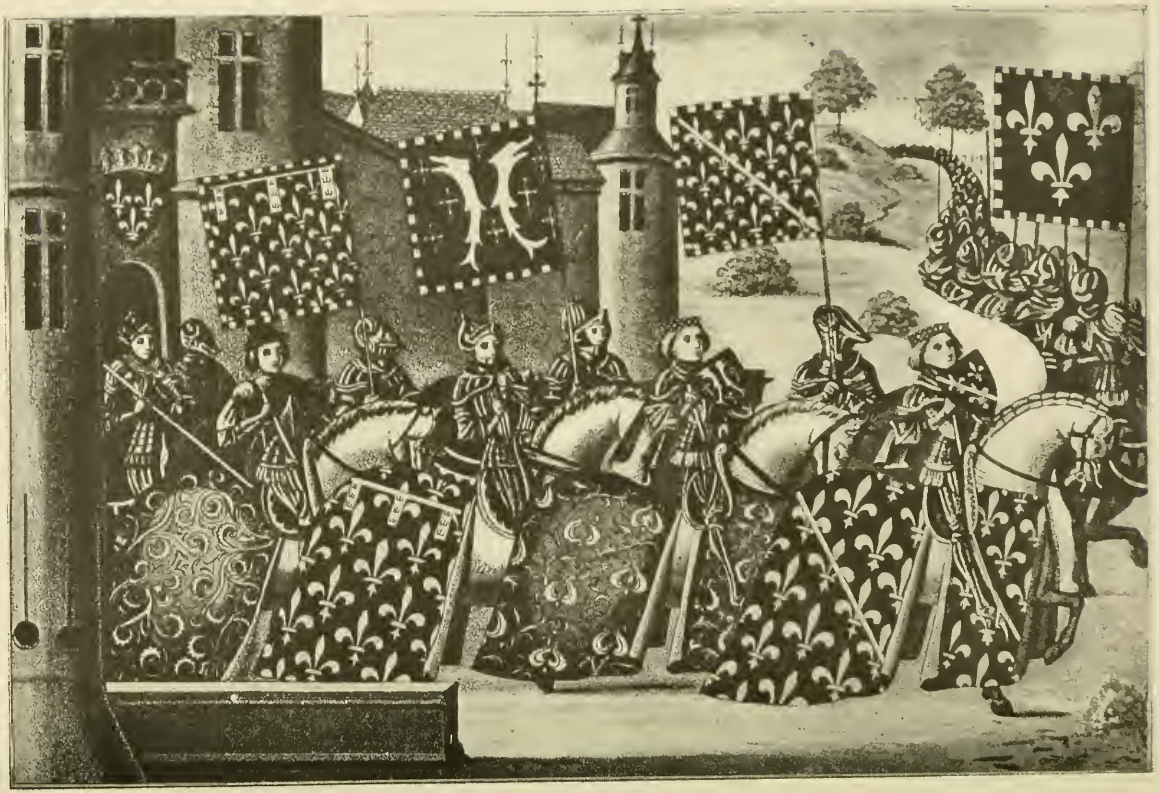
The king sent much people before him to keep the frontiers against Scotland, and sent a great embassy to Sir John of Hainault,† in Belgium, praying him right affectionately that he would keep company with him in his voyage (*campaign*) against the Scots, and that he would be with him at Ascension Day at York with a company of men of war.

When Sir John of Hainault, Lord of Beaumont, heard the king's desire, he sent straight his letters and messengers to every place where he thought to have any company of men of war—in Flanders, in Hainault, in Brabant, and other places—desiring them to go over the sea with him into England. And all such as he sent unto came to him with glad cheer.

And so they took shipping and passed over the sea, and arrived at Dover (*in England*) and ceased not to voyage till they came to the town of York. The king and the queen his mother, and all his lords were, with a great host, already at York waiting the coming of

* The feast day to commemorate the ascension of the Lord Jesus, forty days after his resurrection, from the Mount of Olives, in the presence of his disciples. It is celebrated forty days after Easter day, in the months of May or June.

† Sir John, Count of Hainault, was the uncle of Philippa, afterward Queen of England. Her father was William, Earl of Hainault. She was married to Edward the Third in 1328.



Count William of Hainault setting out on an expedition.

Sir John of Hainault, and had sent before many of their men of arms, archers, and common people of the good towns and villages.

And, on a day, thither came Sir John of Hainault and all his company, who were right welcome and well received both by the king and by the queen his mother, and by all other barons. Sir John had in his company fully five hundred men of arms, well appareled and richly mounted (*on their war horses*). And after the feast of Pentecost * came thither Sir William of Juliers, † who was afterward Duke of Juliers, and Sir Thierry ‡ of Heinsberg, and with them a right fair rout (*assemblage*), and all to keep company with the gentle knight, Sir John of Hainault, Lord Beaumont.#

CHAPTER IV

CONCERNING THE DISSENSION THAT WAS BETWEEN THE ARCHERS OF ENGLAND AND THEM OF HAINAULT

The gentle King of England, the better to feast these foreign lords and all their company, held a great court on Trinity Sunday. At this feast the king had fully five hundred knights, and the queen had in her court sixty ladies and damosels (*damsels*), who were

* The feast of Pentecost commemorates the day on which the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles.

† Pronounced zhü-lyā′.

‡ Pronounced tyā-rē′.

Pronounced bō-môn′.

there ready to make feast and cheer to Sir John of Hainault and to his company. There might have been seen great magnificence in serving all manner of strange victuals. There were ladies and damosels freshly appareled, ready to have danced, if they might.

But incontinent (*immediately*) after dinner there began a great fray (*fight*) between some of the grooms and pages of the strangers and the archers of England who were lodged among them. And anon (*presently*) all the archers assembled together with their bows and drove the strangers home to their lodgings. And the most part of the knights, their masters, were then in the king's court, but as soon as they heard tidings of the fray each of them went to his own lodging in great haste, such as could do so. And such as could not get in were in great peril, for the archers, who were to the number of two thousand, shot fast their arrows, sparing neither masters nor varlets (*servants*).

And so the Englishmen, that were hosts to these strangers, shut fast their doors and windows, and would not suffer them to enter into their lodgings; howbeit (*however*), some got in on the back side and quickly armed themselves, but they durst (*dared*) not issue out into the street for fear of the arrows. Then the strangers brake (*broke*) down pales (*palings*) and hedges of gardens and assembled in a certain plain place till at last there were a hundred and more men of arms and as many more unarmed of such as could not get to their lodgings.

And when they were assembled together they

hasted (*hastened*) to go and succor their companions who were defending their lodgings in the great street.

And as they went forth they passed by the lodging of the Lord d'Enghien,* the archers of England shot fiercely at his house, and there were many of the Hainaulters hurt. And the good knight Fastres de Roeulx,† and Sir Percival de Semeries, and Sir Sanses de Boussoit, ‡ these three could not enter in to their lodgings to arm themselves, but they did as valiantly as though they had been armed.

They had great beams in their hands, which they found in a carpenter's yard, with the which they gave such strokes that men durst not approach them. These three beat down that day, with such small company as they had, more than sixty; for they were great and mighty knights. Finally the archers that were at the fray were discomfited and put to chase (*chased away*), and there was dead in the place fully to the number of three hundred.

I believe God did never give more grace and fortune to any people than he did then to this gentle knight Sir John of Hainault and to his company. For these English archers intended none other thing than to murder and rob them in spite of their coming to serve the king in his business. These strangers were never in so great peril all that season, nor were they ever after in surety (*safety*) till they were again in their own country.

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* One of the foreign knights: pronounced doñ-giañ'.

† Pronounced fas-trē'-dē-rē'.

‡ Pronounced sänz-dē-bŭ-swä'.

For they were so hated by all the archers of the army, that some of the barons and knights of England warned the lords of Hainault that the archers and other of the common people were allied together to the number of six thousand to burn or to kill them in their lodgings either by night or by day.

And so they lived in peril; but each of them promised to help and aid the other, and to sell dearly their lives before they were slain. Continually they were obliged to keep guard and to send out scout watches to see ever if any such people were coming to themward (*toward their camp*), whereby they might quickly gather together, each of them under their (*his*) own banner, in a certain place for defence.

And in this tribulation they abode during the space of four weeks, and in all that season they durst not go far from their harness (*armor*), nor from their lodgings, saving a certain few of the chief lords among them, who went to the court to see the king, who made them right good cheer (*welcomed them*). All the time that the king and lords of England and more than sixty thousand men of war lay there (*remained there*) the victuals were never the dearer.

Ever they had a pennyworth for a penny, and there was good wine and plenty thereof, with cheap poultry and other victuals; and there was daily brought before their lodgings hay, oats, and litter (*bedding for horses*), whereof they were well served for their horses, and at a proper price.*

* The next chapters describe the war against the Scots. The English army wanders round aimlessly and helplessly, not know-

CHAPTER V

HERE THE HISTORY SPEAKETH OF THE CUSTOMS OF THE SCOTS AND HOW THEY CAN WAR

And when the army had sojourned three weeks after this said fray (*with the archers*) then they had knowledge that the next week every man should provide carts and tents and all other necessaries to the intent to move toward Scotland. And when every man was ready appareled, the king and all his barons went out of the city, and the first night they lodged six miles forward. And Sir John of Hainault and his company were lodged always as near the king as might be, to do him the more honor, and also to the intent that the English archers should take no advantage of him nor of his company.

And there the king abode two days and two nights, tarrying for all them that were behind, and to be sure that they lacked nothing. And on the third day they dislodged and went forward till they came to the city of Durham, a day's journey within the country called Northumberland, the which, at that time, was a savage and wild country, full of deserts and

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ing where the enemy is nor how to find him. They are quite ready to fight, but they do not know how to bring him to battle. They wander hither and yon, suffering all manner of trials, and finally the war comes to an end of itself, though no victory is won. There is no real plan for the campaign, and nothing important is done. The art of war has grown up from beginnings like these, and modern wars are very different.

mountains, and a right poor country of everything except of beasts (*cattle*).

Through this country there runneth a river full of flint and great stones, called the water of Tyne. And on this river standeth the town and Castle of Carlisle, the which some time was King Arthur's, and he held his court there oftentimes.

Also on that river is situated the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in the which town the Marshal of England was ready with a great company of men of arms to keep the country against the Scots. And at Carlisle were the Lord Hereford * and the Lord Mowbray,† who were governors there to defend the passage, for the Scots could not enter into England except they passed this said river in one place or other. The Englishmen could hear no tidings of the Scots, who had passed over this river so secretly that the people of Carlisle and those of Newcastle knew nothing thereof.

These Scottish men are right hardy in armor and in war. For when they wish to enter into England, within a day and a night they will drive their whole host (*army*) twenty-four mile, for they are all ahorseback, unless it be the camp followers of the host who follow after afoot. The knights and squires are well horsed (*have fine horses*), and the common people ride on little hackneys; and they carry with them no carts, on account of the mountains they must pass through in the country of Northumberland.

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* Pronounced her'-e-fōrd.

† Pronounced mō'-brā.

They take with them no store of bread or wine, for their soberness is such in time of war that they will pass in the journey a long time eating flesh half sodden (*boiled*), without bread, and drinking the river water without wine; and they neither care for pots nor pans, for they cook beasts in their own skins.

They are ever sure to find plenty of beasts in the country they pass through; therefore they carry with them none other store, but on their horse they pack a broad flat stone, and behind the saddle they have a little sack full of oatmeal. When they have eaten much of the cooked flesh they set the stone on the fire, and mix a little of the oatmeal with water; and when the stone is hot they cast some of the thin paste thereon, and so make a little cake in the manner of a biscuit, and that they eat to comfort their stomachs. Wherefore it is no marvel that they make greater journeys than other people do.

And in this manner were the Scots entered into the said country, and wasted and brent (*laid waste and burned*) all about as they went, and took a great number of beasts. They were to the number of four thousand men of arms, knights and squires, mounted on good horses; and other ten thousand men of war were armed, each in his own fashion, right hardy and fierce, mounted on little hackneys, the which were never tied, but let to go to pasture in the fields and bushes.

They had two good captains, for King Robert of Scotland, who in his days had been hardy and prudent, was then of great age and sore grieved with sick-

ness. But he had made one of his captains the Earl of Moray, and the other was the Lord James Douglas, who was reputed the most hardy knight in all the realm of Scotland.* These two lords were renowned as chief in all deeds of arms and great prowess (*bravery*) in Scotland.

CHAPTER VI

HOW THE KING OF ENGLAND MADE HIS FIRST JOURNEY AGAINST THE SCOTS

When the King of England and his host had seen and heard of the fires that the Scots had made in England, incontinent (*at once*) was cried alarm, and every man was commanded to dislodge and follow after the marshal's banners. Then every man went to the field ready to fight.

There were ordained three great battles (*battalions, or divisions of the army*), and to every battle two wings of five hundred men of arms, knights and squires, and thirty thousand other armed men, besides twenty-four thousand archers afoot.†

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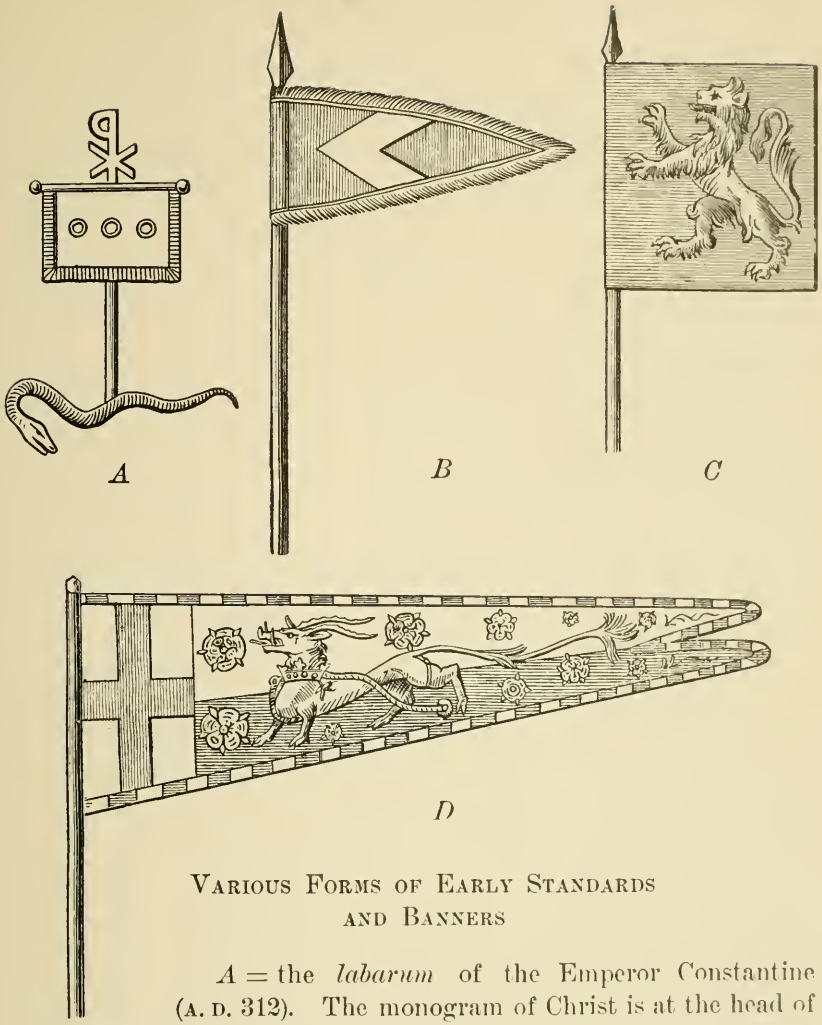
* "Good Sir James Douglas (who wise and wight [*valiant*] and worthy was)
Was never overglad in no winning [*victory*], nor yet oversad for no fineing [*defeat*];
Good fortune and evil chance he weighed in one balance."

† The great lords were the commanders of divisions and of wings, and each displayed his own standard. Under them were the lesser nobility, knights bannerets, and knights. A knight banneret had his own (square) banner and commanded about a



VARIOUS FORMS OF EARLY STANDARDS AND BANNERS

A = the *labarum* of the Emperor Constantine (A. D. 312). The monogram of Christ is at the head of the staff, above the banner, and below it is a serpent. B = the pennon of a knight of the Middle Ages; it is a blue pennon with a silver chevron. C = a banner of the Middle Ages—a lion rampant on a blue field. D = the royal standard of King Henry V of England, who reigned from 1413 to 1422. The standard was eleven yards long; the red cross of St. George is displayed, on a white field, for England, and the ancient dragon also; the roses are emblems of the House of Lancaster; the upper half of the standard is white, the lower blue, and the border is white and blue.

And these battles (*divisions*) advanced forward, well ranged and in good order, and followed the Scots by the sight of the smoke that they made with burning; and thus they followed all that day till it was near night. And that day the Scots had burnt and wasted and pillaged the country around within fifteen miles of the English host; but the Englishmen could not overtake them.

The next day in the morning all the host armed themselves and displayed their banners on the field, every man ready appareled in his own battle, and so advanced all the day, through mountains and valleys; but for all that they could never approach near to the Scots, who went before them, laying the country to waste.

There were such marshes and savage deserts, mountains and dales, that it was commanded, on pain of death, that none of the host should pass in front of the banners of the marshals.*

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hundred and fifty knights and men at arms, all mounted on horseback and clad in armor. Each knight and man at arms had an esquire and two or three followers. The footmen were in twenties, under a chief, and five of these twenties (one hundred) were under a centurion. The archers fought on foot and had commanders of their own. And every army was accompanied by swarms of camp followers and serving men, who were armed, and who often took part in the fighting.

* Nowadays a cloud of scouts and skirmishers would be sent far in front of the main army until the scouts met the enemy. Word would be sent back to bring forward the main force, and while it was coming the scouts would never lose sight of the enemy's army. For want of tactics of this sort the English spent their time in chasing an enemy whom they could not find.

When it drew toward the night the army was so weary that they could not endure to labor any further that day. And when the lords saw that their labor in following the Scots was in vain, then it was commanded in the king's name that the host should take their lodgings for that night, and then take counsel and advice what should be best to do the next day. So the host was lodged in a wood by a riverside, and the king in a little poor abbey. His men of war were marvelously weary.

Then the lords drew themselves apart to take counsel how they might fight with the Scots, considering the country that they were in; for, as far as they could understand, the Scots went ever forward, burning and wasting the country, and they saw well they could not overtake them, nor in any wise (*manner*) fight them among these mountains without great peril.

But it was thought that the Scots must needs pass again the river of Tyne on their way homeward. Therefore it was determined that all the host should remove at midnight, and make haste in the morning to stop the Scots from passing the river, whereby they would be forced either to fight, or else still to abide in England to their great danger and loss.

And all the host supped and lodged as well as they might that night, and every man was warned to be ready at the first sounding of the trumpet, and at the second blast every man was to arm himself without delay, and at the third every man was quickly to mount on his horse under his own standard or banner.

And every man was to take with him but one loaf of bread and to pack it behind him on his horse.

It was also determined that they should leave behind them all their spare armor and all manner of carriages and stores, for they thought they would surely fight with the Scots the next day, whatsoever danger they were in, thinking either to win or to lose all.

And thus it was ordained (*ordered*), and so it was accomplished. About midnight every man was ready appareled; few had slept, and yet they had sore labored the day before. Before they were well ranged in battle array, the day began to appear. Then they advanced forward in all haste through mountains, valleys, and rocks, and through many evil passages (*passes*) without any plain country.

And on the highest of these hills and on the plain of these valleys there were marvelous great marshes and dangerous passages, so that it was great marvel (*wonder*) that much people had not been lost. For they rode ever forward, and never tarried one for another, and no one who fell in any of these marshes could get any aid to help him out again, so that there were many lost, and specially horses and carts.

Oftentimes in the day there was cried alarm, for it was said ever that the foremost company were fighting with their enemies, so that the hindermost thought it had been true. Wherefore they hasted them over rocks and stones and mountains, with helmet and shield, ready appareled to fight, with spear and sword ready in hand, without tarrying for father, brother, or companion.

Thus rode forth all that day the young King of England, through mountains and deserts, without finding any highway, town, or village. And when it was almost night, they came to the river of Tyne, to the same place where the Scots had passed over into England, thinking that they must needs repass again the same way. Then the King of England and his host passed over the same river by fording it with much pain and trouble, for the passage was full of great stones.

And when they were over, they lodged that night by the riverside. By that time the sun was gone to rest, and there were but few among them that had an axe or any instrument to cut down wood to make their lodgings with. And there were many that had lost their own company and knew not where they were. Some of the footmen (*foot soldiers*) were far behind, and knew not what way to take. Such as knew the country best said plainly they had ridden that same day twenty-four English miles, for they rode as fast as they could without any rest.

All this night they lay by this riverside, holding their horses by their reins in their hands, for there was nothing whereunto to tie them. Thus their horses did eat no meat (*food*) all that night nor day before. They had neither oats nor forage for them, nor had the people of the host any sustenance all that day nor night, except that every man had his loaf that he had carried behind his saddle, the which was sore wet with the sweat of the horses. Nor drank they any other drink but the water of the river, nor had

they fire or light, for they had nothing to make light with, except that some of the lords had torches brought with them.

In this great trouble and danger they passed all that night, their armor still on their backs, their horses ready saddled. And when the day began to appear, the which was greatly desired by the whole host, they trusted then to find some relief for themselves and for their horses, or else to fight with their enemies, the which they greatly desired so as to be delivered out of the great labor and pain that they had endured.

All that day it rained so fast that the river and passage rose so high that before it was noon no one could pass the passages again; wherefore they could not have any forage or straw for their horses, nor bread nor drink for their own sustenance.

So all that night they were forced to fast, and their horses had nothing but leaves of trees and herbs. They cut down boughs of trees with their swords to make themselves lodges. And about noon some poor folks of the country were found who said they were then about fourteen miles from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and eleven miles from Carlisle, and that there was no town nearer to them wherein they might find anything.*

When the king and the lords of his council knew this, immediately horses were sent to fetch thence

* The whole English army was lost as if they had been children strayed away from home.

some provisions. And there was a proclamation, in the king's name, made in the town of Newcastle, that whosoever would bring bread and wine, or any other victual, should be paid therefor at a good price. It was published openly that the king nor his host would not depart from that place till they had some tidings where their enemies were.

On the next day, by noon, those who had been sent for victual returned again to the host with such provisions as they could get, and that was not overmuch. With them came other folks of the country with little nags loaded with bread miserably baked, and poor wine in barrels and other victual to sell, whereby great part of the host were well refreshed and eased.

Thus they continued, day by day, for the space of eight days, waiting every day the returning again of the Scots, who knew no more where the English host lay than they knew where were the Scots. So each of them was ignorant of the other. Thus three days and three nights they had been without bread, wine, candle or light, fodder or forage, or any kind of provisions, either for horse or man. There was such famine that each took victuals out of other's hands, whereby there rose divers battles and strifes between sundry companions.

Beside all these mischiefs (*misfortunes*), it never ceased to rain all the whole week, whereby their saddles and other horse furniture were all rotten and broken, and most part of their horses were sore on their backs. Nor had they shoes to shoe them that

were unshod, nor they had nothing to cover themselves from the rain and cold but green bushes and their armor, nor they had anything to make fire but green boughs, the which would not burn because of the rain.

In this great mischief (*misfortune*) they were all the week without hearing of any word of the Scots, trusting that they would repass again into their own countries the same way, or near thereabout. Great noise and murmur began to rise in the host. Wherefore it was ordained (*ordered*) by the king and by his council that the next morning they should remove and again repass the river.

Also there was a proclamation made that whosoever could bring to the king certain knowledge where the Scots were, he that brought first tidings thereof should have land worth a rent of a hundred pounds to him and to his heirs forever, and should be made a knight by the king's hand.

When this cry (*proclamation*) was made in the host divers English knights and squires to the number of fifteen or sixteen, coveting the winning of this promise of the king's, passed the river in great peril and rode forth through the mountains, and departed one from other (*separated*), each taking their adventure.

And the fourth day after this, about the hour of nine in the morning, there came a squire (*Thomas Rokesby by name*) fast riding toward the king, and said: "An it like your grace (*if it pleases your Grace, your Majesty*), I have brought you perfect tidings of

the Scots, your enemies. Surely they be within nine miles of you, lodged on a great mountain, abiding there (*waiting*) for you. And there they have been all this eight days, and they knew no more tidings of you than ye did of them.

"Sir, this that I tell you is truth, for I approached so near to them that I was taken prisoner, and brought before the lords of their host. And there I told them tidings of you, and how that ye seek for them, intending to have battle.

"And the lords did release me without ransom and prison, when I told them how your Grace had promised a hundred pounds sterling of rent to him that brought first tidings of them to you. And they made me promise that I would not rest till I had given you this tidings, for they said they had as great desire to fight with you as ye had with them. And in that place ye shall find them, without fail." *

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* In the days of chivalry the customs of war were very different from those of modern times. The whole of this book will show that. In this place we are to notice two things: First, the squire was sent back with a defiance to the King of England. Second, the Scottish lords asked no ransom money of him. They were willing to help the fortune of a soldier, and excused him the payment of ransom partly for that reason, and partly to use him to carry their defiance. Every rank had its proper ransom. Great lords paid ten thousand franks, or even more, equal to at least $50,000 of our money; knights and squires much less. The ransom of the young Lord Berkeley in France was about $90,000 (see Chapter XL). The ransom of King David of Scotland was £100,000, equal to $5,000,000 of our money to-day. The capture of prisoners of rank was a source of income, and such prisoners were well cared for, therefore. A knight going into battle might

As soon as the king had heard this tidings he assembled all his host in a fair meadow; and beside it was a little abbey (*church*). There the king confessed his sins to a priest, and caused many masses to be sung, to give the holy communion to all such as desired.* And he assigned a hundred pounds sterling of rent to the squire that had brought him tidings of the Scots, according to his promise, and made him a knight with his own hands † before all the host.

And when they had well rested them and taken repast, then the trumpet sounded "to horse" and every man mounted. The banners and standards followed this new-made knight, every battle (*battalion*) by itself, in good order, through mountains and dales, as well as might be, ever ready to fight. They made such haste that about noon they were so near the Scots that each of them might clearly see the other.

As soon as the Scots saw them they issued out of their lodges afoot and ordained (*ordered*) three great battles (*divisions*) on the slope of the hill. At the foot of this mountain ran a great river full of great rocks and stones, so that none might pass over without great danger or jeopardy. And even if the Englishmen had passed over the river, yet there was no place nor room between the hill and the river to set the battle in good order. The Scots had established

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be killed; he took his chances of that. But if he were taken prisoner he need not (usually) fear for his life.

* England was a Roman Catholic country till 1534.

† The kneeling squire, in full armor, was touched on the shoulder by the king's sword, who called him "Sir Knight."

their first two battles (*divisions*) at the two corners of the mountain, so that none might mount upon the hill to assail them; and the Scots were ever ready to beat the assailants with stones, if they passed the river.

When the lords of England saw the behaving and the manner of the Scots, they made all their people to alight afoot and put off their spurs, and arranged three great battles (*divisions*) as they had done before. And when their battles were set in good order, then some of the lords of England brought their young king ahorseback before all the host to give thereby the more courage to all his people.

Then the king commanded that they should advance toward their enemies fair and easily; and so they did. Every battle went forth in good array and order over a great space of ground as far as the descending of the mountain where the Scots were, but they did not cross the river. And some mounted on good horses and rode forth to skirmish, and to behold (*examine*) the passage of the river, and to see the countenance of their enemies nearer.

And there were heralds of arms sent to the Scots, giving them knowledge if that they would come and pass the river to fight with the English in the plain field, the English would draw back from the river and give them sufficient place to arrange their battles; or else they asked them to let the English come over to them.

When the Scots heard this they took counsel among themselves, and anon (*presently*) they an-

swered the heralds that they would do neither the one nor the other. They said: "Sirs, your king and his lords see well how we be here in this realm (*kingdom*), and have burned and laid waste the country as we passed through. If they be displeased with it, let them amend it (*better it*) when they will. For here we will abide as long as it shall please us."

As soon as the King of England heard that answer it was incontinent (*at once*) cried that all the English host should lodge there that night without retreating. And so the host lodged there that night with much pain on the hard ground and stones, always armed. They had no stakes to tie their horses, nor forage, nor bush to make any fire. Then the Scots caused some of their people to keep the field, and the remnant went to their lodgings, and they made such fires that it was marvel to behold. Thus these two hosts were lodged that night, the which was Saint Peter's night (*August 1st*), in the year of our Lord MCCCXXVII.

The next morning the lords of England heard mass (*the Church service*), and ranged again their battles as they had done the day before. And the Scots in like wise (*manner*) ordered their battles. Thus both the hosts stood still in battle till it was noon. The Scots made no attempt to come to the English to fight with them, nor the Englishmen to them, for they could not approach together without great damage.

There were divers (*various*) companions ahorseback that passed the river, and some afoot, to scrim-

mish (*skirmish*) with the Scots, and in like wise (*manner*) some of the Scots brake out and scrimmished with them; so that there were several of both parties slain, wounded, and taken prisoners. And after that noon was past, the lords of England commanded every man to go to his lodging, for they saw well that the Scots would not fight with them.

In like manner thus they did three days together, and the Scots in like case kept still to their mountains. However, there was scrimmishing by both parties, and several slain and prisoners taken. And every night the Scots made great fires and great noises with shouting and blowing of horns.

The intention of the Englishmen was to hold the Scots there besieged, for they could not fight with them there as they were, thinking to have famished them (*starved them out*). And the Englishmen knew well by such prisoners as they had taken that the Scots had neither bread, wine, nor salt, nor other provisions, save of beasts (*cattle*) they had great plenty, which they had taken in the country.

In the morning of the fourth day the Englishmen looked on the mountain where the Scots were, and they could see no creature, for the Scots were departed at midnight. Then were there sent men ahorseback and afoot, over the river, to know what had become of them; and about noon they found them lodged on another mountain, stronger than the other was, by the same riverside.

Then incontinent the English host dislodged, and went to that part, embattled in good order. Then

the Scots issued out of their lodges and set their battles along the riverside against the English; but they would never come toward them, and the Englishmen could not go to them without being taken at a disadvantage. Thus they lodged (*encamped*) against each other for the space of eighteen days, and oftentimes the King of England sent his heralds of arms, offering them that if they would come and fight he would give them place sufficient; or else asking them to give him room and place and he would come over the river and fight with them; but the Scots would never agree thereto.

Thus both the hosts suffered much pain while they lay so near together. And the first night that the English host was thus lodged on the second mountain the Lord James Douglas took with him about two hundred men of arms and passed over the river so that he was not perceived, and suddenly brake into the English host about midnight, crying, "Douglas! Douglas! ye English!" and he slew, before he ceased, three hundred men, some in their beds and some scant ready (*scarcely ready for fighting*). And he strake (*struck*) his horse with the spurs and came to the king's own tent, and cut asunder two or three cords of the king's tent, and so departed, and in that retreat he lost some of his men.

Every night the English host kept a good and sure watch, and every day there were scrimmishes made and men slain of both parties. And in conclusion (*finally*), the last day of twenty-four there was a Scottish knight taken, who was so sore exam-

ined (*tortured*) that for fear of his life he told how the lords of Scotland were agreed among themselves that on that very night every man should be ready to follow the banners of Lord James Douglas. But the knight could not tell what they intended to do.

Then the English lords ordained three great battles, and so stood in three parties, and made great fires, thereby to see the better, and they stood all that night armed, every man under his own standard and banner. At the breaking of the day two trumpeters of Scotland met with the English scout watch, who brought them before the king, and then they said openly: "Sirs, what do ye watch here? Ye lose your time, for, on the jeopardy (*peril*) of our heads, the Scots are gone. They departed before midnight, and they are at the least, by this time, three or four miles on their way."

Then the English lords said that it was folly to follow the Scots, for they saw well they could not overtake them; and the lords took counsel what should be best to do. It was ordained by the king, and by the advice of his council, that the whole host should follow the marshal's banners and withdraw homeward into England. And so they did.

So then the next day the host dislodged again, and about noon they came near to the city of Durham. And in this city every man found his own carriages (*carts for baggage*), the which they had left thirty-two days before in a wood at midnight, when they followed the Scots first, as it hath been said before. For the people of Durham had found them

and brought them into their town. And all these carriages were set in empty barns in safeguard. And the lords and gentlemen were glad when they had thus found their carriages.

Thus they abode two days in the city of Durham, and there their horses were new shod. And then they took their way to the city of York,* and so within three days they came thither, and there the king found the queen, his mother, who received him with great joy, and so did all the other ladies, and the people of the city.

The king gave license to every man to go homeward to his own country. And the king thanked greatly the earls, barons, and knights for their good counsel and aid that they had done to him in his journey; and he retained still with him Sir John of Hainault and all his company, who were greatly feasted by the queen and all other ladies.† Then they of Hainault bought little nags to ride at their ease, and sent back their lackeys and pages and all their harness and baggages by water in two ships to Flanders.‡

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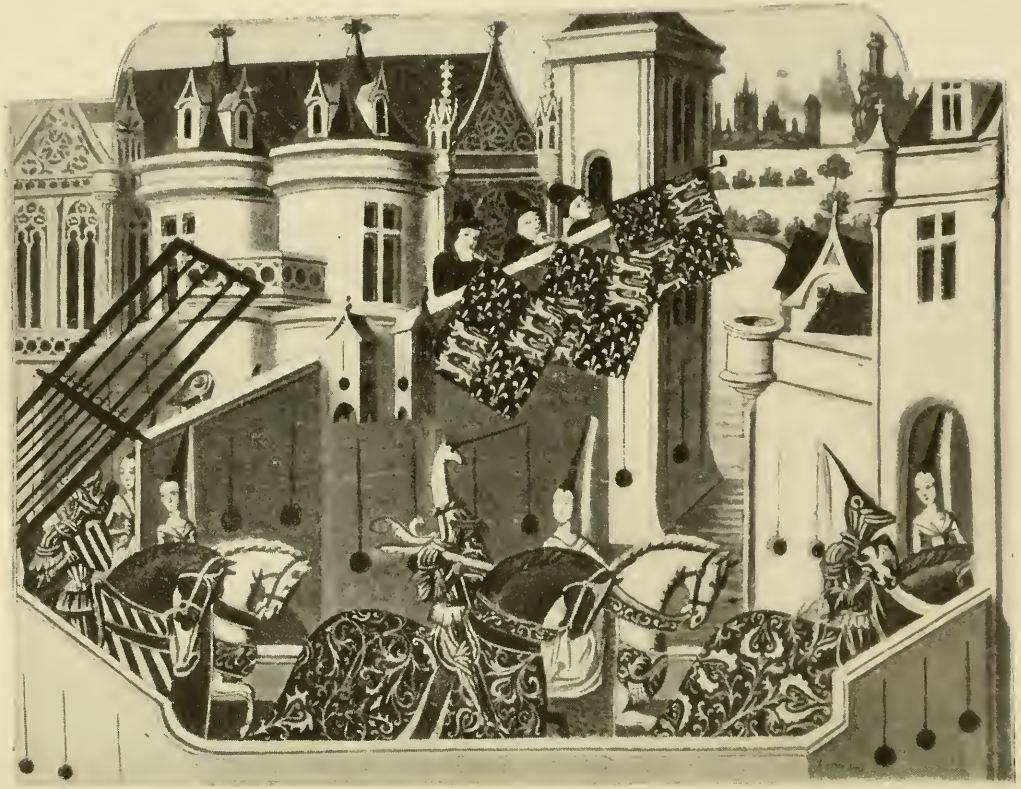
* In England no town, however large, is called a city unless it is (or has been) the seat of a bishop; unless it has a cathedral, therefore.

† Sir John of Hainault was paid £14,000 (= $70,000) for his service—a sum equal to something like $700,000 of our money to-day.

‡ Here ends the history of the war against the Scots. Sir John Froissart has related all the facts as they happened, and he was too good a soldier not to know how the whole expedition was mismanaged. But he has not given his own opinion of the helpless



A tournament at London.

Notice that the English banners on the walls bear the lilies of France as well as the lions of England.

CHAPTER VII

HOW KING EDWARD THE THIRD WAS MARRIED TO THE LADY PHILIPPA OF HAINAULT

It was not long after that the king and the queen his mother, the Earl of Kent his uncle, and all the barons of England took advice to marry him. So they sent a bishop and two knights bannerets, with two notable clerks (*learned men*), to Sir John of Hainault, praying him to arrange that the young King of England might have in marriage one of the daughters of his brother, Count William,* named Philippa; the king and all the nobles of the realm had rather have her than any other lady, for the love of him (*because they loved Count William*).

Sir John of Hainault, Lord Beaumont, honored greatly these ambassadors, and brought them to the earl his brother, who honorably received them.

And when they had delivered their message, the earl said: "Sirs, I thank greatly the king, and the

floundering about of the army, for fear of offending his English friends. He has simply set down the facts as they happened, leaving you to draw your own conclusions. There were sixty-two thousand men in the English army, and only twenty-four thousand men in the Scottish; but the Scots manœuvred so well that the English could never attack them except at a disadvantage.

* William, Count of Hainault, the father of Queen Philippa, and the brother of Sir John, was an ally of England. He died in 1337, and was succeeded by his son, who was also for a time the ally of the English.

queen his mother, and all other lords of England, since they have sent such personages as ye be to do me such honor as to treat for the marriage; to the which request I am well agreed, if our holy father the Pope will consent thereto"; with which answer these ambassadors were right well content.

Then they sent two knights and two clerks (*learned men*) to the Pope, to Avignon,* to purchase a dispensation for this marriage. Without the Pope's license they might not marry, for they were near of kin (*cousins*). When these ambassadors were come to the Pope, and their requests well heard, then our holy father the Pope consented to this marriage, and so feasted them. And they departed and came again to Valenciennes.

Then this marriage was concluded and affirmed by both parties, and this princess entered upon the sea, and arrived with all her company at Dover. And Sir John of Hainault, Lord Beaumont, her uncle, did conduct her to the city of London, where there was made great feast, and the queen was crowned. And there were also great jousts, tourneys, dancing, carolling, and great feasts every day, the which endured the space of three weeks.

The coronation of the queen was done at York with much honor the Sunday of the Conversion of Saint Paul, in the year of our Lord MCCCXXVIII. The

* The Pope's authority was first recognized in England in A. D. 1079, and endured till 1534. In 1308 the Popes removed from Rome to Avignon, in France, and there they stayed for seventy years, afterward returning to Rome.

Seal of Robert Bruce, King of the Scots.

young Queen Philippa abode in England with very few persons of her own country. One of the knights of Hainault who remained was named Watelet of Manny,* who afterward did so many great feats of arms in divers places that it were hard to make mention of them all.

CHAPTER VIII

HOW KING ROBERT OF SCOTLAND DIED (1329)

When the Scots departed by night from the mountain, where the King of England had besieged them, as ye have heard herebefore, they went through that savage country without resting, and passed the river of Tyne near to Carlisle. The next day they went into their own land, and so departed every man to his own mansion. And soon after there was a peace purchased between the kings of England and Scotland.

And also they delivered to them again the black cross of Scotland, the which the good King Edward the First conquered and brought it out of the abbey of Scone in the year MCCXCVI, the which was a precious relic; and all rights and interests that every English baron had in Scotland were then clean forgiven.

And many other things were done at that parliament to the great hurt and prejudice of the realm of England, and against the will of all the nobles of

* Sir Walter de Manny, or de Mauny.

the realm, save only of Isabel the old queen (*mother of Edward the Third*) and the Bishop of Ely and the Lord Mortimer. They ruled the realm in such wise that every man was miscontent.

The foresaid peace, which was purchased between England and Scotland, was to endure three years. And in the meantime it fortuned that King Robert of Scotland was right aged and feeble; for he was greatly charged (*burdened*) with sickness, so that there was no way with him but death.

And when he felt that his end drew near, he sent for such barons and lords of his realm as he trusted best, and told them that he must needs leave this transitory life, commanding them truly to keep the realm and aid the young Prince David his son.

Then he called to him the gentle knight Sir James Douglas, and said before all the lords: "Sir James, my dear friend, ye know well that I have had much trouble to uphold and sustain the right of this realm; and when I had most trouble I made a solemn vow, the which as yet I have not accomplished, whereof I am right sorry. And the vow was, that when I had made an end of all my wars, and brought this realm into rest and peace, then I promised in my mind to have gone and warred on the Saracens, Christ's enemies, adversaries to our holy Christian faith.

"To this purpose mine heart hath ever inclined, but our Lord would not consent thereto; for I have had much trouble in my days, and now I have taken such a malady that I can not escape. And since it

is so, that my body can not go nor achieve what my heart desireth, I will send my heart instead of the body to accomplish my vow.

"And because I know no knight more valiant than ye be to accomplish my vow instead of myself, therefore I require you, mine own dear especial friend, that ye will take on you this voyage, for the love of me, and to acquit my soul in the sight of my Lord God.

"For I trust so much in your nobleness and truth, that if ye will take on you, I doubt not but that ye shall achieve it, and then shall I die in more ease and quiet.

"I desire that as soon as I am departed out of this world, that ye take my heart out of my body and embalm it, and take of my treasure such moneys as ye shall think sufficient for that enterprise, both for yourself and such company as ye will take with you, and present my heart to the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, where our Lord lay, seeing my body can not come there.

"And wheresoever ye come, let it be known how ye carry with you the heart of King Robert of Scotland, at his instance and desire, to be presented to the Holy Sepulcher."

Then all the lords that heard these words wept for pity; and when this knight Sir James Douglas could speak for weeping, he said: "Ah, gentle and noble king, a hundred times I thank your grace for the great honor that ye do to me, since of so noble and great treasure (*the king's heart*) ye give me in

charge. Sir, I shall do with a glad heart all that ye have commanded me, to the best of my true power, howbeit I am not worthy nor sufficient to achieve such a noble enterprise."

Then the king said, "Ah, gentle knight, I thank you, so that ye will promise to do it."

"Sir," said the knight, "I shall do it undoubtedly by the faith that I owe to God and to the order of knighthood."

"Then I thank you," said the king, "for now shall I die in more ease of mind, since I know that the most worthy and sufficient knight of my realm shall achieve for me that which I could never attain unto."

And thus soon after this noble Robert de Bruce, King of Scotland, departed out of this uncertain world, and his heart was taken out of his body and embalmed, and honorably he was interred in the Abbey of Dunfermline in the year of our Lord God MCCCXXIX, the seventh day of the month of June.

And when the springing time (*the spring*) began, then Sir James Douglas took ship and sailed into Flanders, to know if there were any noblemen in that country that would go to Jerusalem, so that he might have a larger company.

And in his company there was a knight banneret and seven other knights of Scotland, and twenty-six young squires and gentlemen to serve him; and all his table furniture was of gold and silver—pots, basins, ewers, dishes, flagons, barrels, cups, and all other things.

And all such as would come and see him, they were well served with two kinds of wines and divers (*various*) manner of spices, all manner of people according to their degrees (*ranks*).

And when he had thus tarried there twelve days, he heard that Alphonso the Eleventh of that name, King of Spain,* was making war against a Saracen king of Granada.

Then he thought to go to those parts, thinking surely he could not bestow his time more nobly than to war against God's enemies; and, that enterprise done, then he thought to go forth to Jerusalem and to complete what he was charged with.

And so he departed and took the sea toward Spain, and arrived at the port of Valencia in Arragon. Then he went straight to the King of Spain, who held his host against the King of Granada Saracen, and they were near together, on the frontiers of his land.

And a while after this knight Sir James Douglas came to the King of Spain, on a certain day the king issued out into the field to approach near to his enemies. And the King of Granada issued out in like manner, so that each king might see the other with all their banners displayed. Then they arranged their battles each against other.

Then Sir James Douglas drew out on the one side with all his company, and when he saw that the battle of the King of Spain began to advance, he

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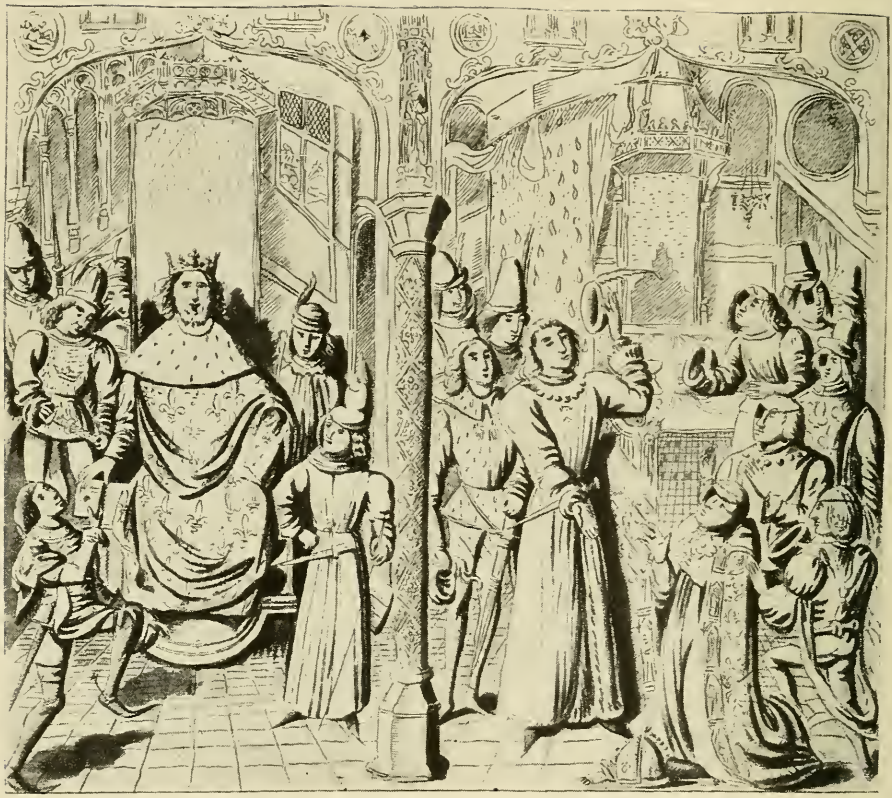
* King of Leon and Castile, 1312–1350.

thought then verily that they should soon assemble together to fight at hand strokes.

And then he thought rather to be with the foremost than with the hindermost, and strake his horse with the spurs, and dashed into the battle of the King of Granada, crying, "Douglas! Douglas!" thinking that the King of Spain and his host followed, but they did not. Wherefore he was deceived, for the Spanish host stood still. And so this gentle knight was surrounded, he and all his company, by the Saracens. He did marvels in arms, but finally he and all his company were slain; the which was great damage, that the Spaniards would not rescue them.



King Edward III sending his defiance to the King of France. His messenger is receiving the letter on his bended knee.

The Bishop of Lincoln and the bachelors who had vowed to wear a patch over one eye till they had performed some gallant feat of arms.

PART II

THE WARS OF THE ENGLISH IN THE LAND OF FRANCE (1337–1346)

CHAPTER IX

HOW KING EDWARD WAS COUNSELED TO MAKE WAR AGAINST THE FRENCH KING (1337)

In this season Sir Robert of Artois * was in England, banished out of France, and was ever about King Edward. And always he counseled him to defy the French King, who (*he said*) kept his heritages from him wrongfully.†

On this matter the king oftentimes counseled with them of his secret council, for gladly he would have had his rights if he knew how.

If he should sit still and do not his full duty to recover his rights, he would be blamed. Yet he thought it were better to speak not thereof, for he saw

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* Pronounced är-twä'. Sir Robert "was one of the wisest lords in France," and had married Joan of Valois, the sister of the French King. He had lately quarreled with King Philip, and Sir Robert had passed over into England, where he was welcomed by King Edward as a valuable counselor and ally.

† King Edward the Third claimed the throne of France in right of his mother, Queen Isabel (see page 27).

well that by the power of his realm it would be hard for him to subdue the great realm of France, without help of some other great lords either of the Empire * or in other places.†

Finally, his councilors answered him and said: "Sir, the matter is so weighty (*important*) that we dare not give you any counsel. But, Sir, this we would counsel you to do: send messengers to the Earl of Hainault, whose daughter ye have married, and to Sir John his brother, who hath valiantly served you at all times, and ask them to counsel you; for they know better what pertaineth to such a matter than we do. And, Sir, they will counsel you what friends ye may best make."

The king was content with this answer, and desired the Bishop of Lincoln to take this message, and with him two bannerets and two doctors (that is, *doctors of law, not of medicine*).

They made them ready and took shipping and arrived at Dunkirk, and rode through Flanders till

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* Charlemagne, Charles the Great, founded the Empire of the West in A. D. 800. It was the Roman Empire renewed. Rome had fallen into the hands of the barbarians A. D. 476. The German Emperor Otho the First founded the Holy Roman Empire in A. D. 963. It included Germany, a great part of Italy, Bohemia, Moravia, Poland, Denmark, and Hungary. The emperor received the title of "Defender of the Holy Roman Church." Froissart calls him "the Emperor of Germany." The empire continued to exist in one form or another till 1806, when the conquests of the French under Napoleon brought it to its end.

† In 1337 France had twenty million inhabitants, while England had but four millions.

they came to Valenciennes,* where they found the earl lying in his bed sick of the gout, and with him Sir John his brother.

They were greatly feasted, and declared the cause of their coming, and explained all the reasons and doubts of the king their master.

Then the earl said: "So help me God, if the king's mind might be brought to resolve to do this thing (*to make war on France*) I would be right glad thereof.

"I shall not fail to aid my dear and well-beloved son the King of England. I shall give him counsel and aid to the best of my power, and so shall John my brother, who hath served him before this. Howbeit, he must have more help than ours; for Hainault is but a small country compared to the realm of France, and England is too far off to aid us."

Then the bishop said: "Sir, we thank you in our master's behalf for the comfort that ye give us. Sir, we desire you to give our master counsel what friends he ought to gain to aid him."

"Surely," said the earl, "I can not devise a more powerful prince to aid him than the Duke of Brabant, who is his cousin, and also the Bishop of Liège,† the Duke of Gueldres,‡ who hath married his sister, the Archbishop of Cologne, and the Marquis of Juliers.

"These lords are good men of war; they may well raise ten thousand men of war; they are people that would be glad to win advantage for themselves.

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* Pronounced vä-loń-syen'.

† Pronounced lyāzh.

‡ Pronounced geldr.

"If the king, my son, your master, could get these lords to be on his side, he then might well go and seek out King Philip to fight with him."

With this answer these ambassadors returned into England to the king and reported all that they had done; whereof the king had great joy and was well comforted.

These tidings came into France and multiplied little and little, so that King Philip began to be anxious to know what the plans of King Edward might be.

Then King Edward selected ten bannerets and forty other knights and sent them over the sea to Valenciennes, and the Bishop of Lincoln with them, to treat with the lords of the empire; with the ones that the Earl of Hainault had named.

When they were come to Valenciennes, each of them kept an establishment in great state, and spared nothing, no more than if the King of England had been there in his proper person, whereby they did get great renown and praise.

They had with them certain young bachelors, who had each of them one of his eyes closed with a piece of silk: it was said how they had made a vow among the ladies of their country that they would not see but with one eye till they had done some deeds of arms in France.*

* Vows were often made by knights to do, or to refrain from doing, a certain thing until some knightly deed had been accomplished. Sometimes the vows were mere singularities or extravagances, as in the case of the "young bachelors"; but it

An English knight, Sir Geoffrey Loutrell, receiving his armor from his wife.
(From an old manuscript.)

And when they had been well feasted at Valenciennes, then the Bishop of Lincoln went to the Duke of Brabant, who feasted them greatly, and promised to sustain the King of England and all his company in his country, so that he might go and come at his pleasure, and to give him the best counsel he could.

And also he agreed, if the King of England would defy the French King, that he would do the same, and enter into the country of France with men of war to the number of a thousand men of arms, if so be that the English would pay their wages.*

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is noteworthy that there was a bishop among them; and the artist (see the plate) has represented him, also, as wearing the patch.

* The pay of a knight was about two shillings per day, something like five dollars of our money. For this sum he maintained himself and also three or four armed followers or retainers—squires, as it were. But he had a chance to gain a large ransom for the prisoners he took: and when a town was captured he obtained much booty. A squire's pay was about one shilling per day. It was the duty of each English knight to furnish to the king, in time of war, men at arms mounted and prepared to serve, either at home or abroad, the space of forty days; and for every twenty pounds of rent that he owned (about one thousand dollars of our money to-day) he was obliged to furnish one such soldier fully equipped. The Duke of Brabant wanted pay for his men, because he was only a friend, not a vassal, of the King of England.

In 1350, seven shillings of English money (say one dollar and seventy-five cents) would buy about as much as five pounds (say twenty-five dollars) nowadays. Twenty-five dollars is more than fourteen times one dollar and seventy-five cents; so that a piece of silver would buy in the time of King Edward the Third about fourteen times as much wheat as the same piece would buy now. A better idea of the purchasing power of money in those times

Thus, then, the lords returned again to Valenciennes, and did so much by messengers and by promises of gold and silver, that the Duke of Gueldres, who was the king's brother-in-law, and the Marquis of Juliers, the Archbishop of Cologne, and others came to Valenciennes to speak with these lords of England.

And by the means of a great sum of money, that each of them should have for themselves and for their men, they made promise to defy the French King and to go with the King of England when it pleased him, with their men of war.

They promised also to get other lords to take their part for wages, such lords as are beyond the river of Rhine and are able to bring good numbers of men of war.

Then the lords of Almaine (= *Allemagne* = *Germany*) took their leave and returned into their own countries, and the Englishmen still tarried with the Earl of Hainault.

King Charles of Bohemia was not asked, for he was so firmly joined with the French King that they knew well he would do nothing against the French King.

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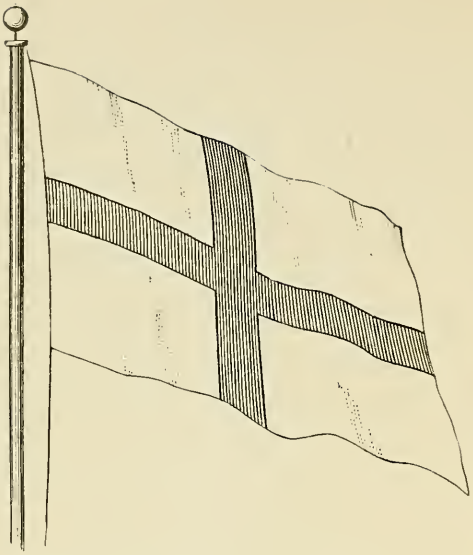
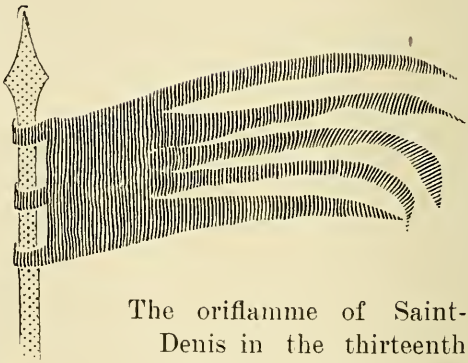
may be had by quoting the prices of animals or of articles in common use.

In 1350, in England, the price of a horse was about four dollars and fifty cents; of a bushel of wheat, about eight cents; of an ox, six dollars; of a cow, four dollars and fifty cents; of a sheep, sixty cents; of a hen, four cents. The daily pay of a farm laborer was about six cents. Taking the cost of such common things into account, it may be said that a shilling would buy, in 1350, from ten to fourteen times as much of the articles needed every day, by everybody, as it will now buy.



The flag of England in 1327 and afterward ; the red cross of St. George on a white field.

A black eagle on a yellow ground was the standard of the Holy Roman Empire.



The oriflamme of Saint-Denis in the thirteenth century. It was the sacred banner of France. The flag was red.

The flag of Scotland since the Crusades; the white cross of St. Andrew on a blue field.

CHAPTER X

HOW KING EDWARD OF ENGLAND MADE GREAT ALLIANCES IN THE EMPIRE (1338)

The King of England made great preparations; and when the winter was past he went by sea, well accompanied with dukes, earls, and barons, and other knights, and arrived at the town of Antwerp. Thither came people from all parts to see him and the great state (*magnificence*) that he kept.

Then he sent to his cousin the Duke of Brabant, and to the Duke of Gueldres, to the Marquis of Juliers, to the Lord John of Hainault, and to other of his friends, saying how he would gladly speak with them.

They came all to Antwerp, and when the king had well feasted them he desired to know their minds, when they would begin what they had promised. For, he said, he was come thither and had all his men ready, and that it would be a great damage to him to defer the matter long.

These lords had long counsel among them, and finally they said: "Sir, our coming hither now was more to see you than for anything else. We are not now ready to give you a full answer. By your leave we will return to our people and come again to you at your pleasure, and then give you a plain answer." So thus these lords departed, and the king tarried in Antwerp.

The day came that the King of England looked to have an answer from these lords; and they excused themselves, and said to the King of England: "Sir, we see no cause why we should make defiance to the French King, all things considered, unless we can get the agreement of the Emperor of Germany, so that he would command us to do so in his name.

"The emperor may well thus do, for a long time ago there was a covenant sworn and sealed, that no king of France should take anything pertaining to the empire; and this King Philip of France hath taken certain castles and cities from the emperor. Wherefore the emperor hath good cause to defy him. Therefore, Sir, if ye can get his consent our honor shall be the more." And the king said he would follow their counsel.

Then it was ordained that certain knights should go to the emperor. And they found the emperor at Nuremberg and explained to him the cause of their coming. And the Lady Margaret of Hainault did all in her power to further the matter. It was she whom Sir Louis of Bavaria,* then emperor, had married. And the emperor made King Edward his vicar-general † throughout all the empire.

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* King Louis the Fourth of Bavaria was Emperor of Germany from A. D. 1314 to 1347.

† Vicar-general, his viceroy.

CHAPTER XI

HOW KING DAVID OF SCOTLAND MADE AN ALLIANCE WITH KING PHILIP OF FRANCE

In this season the young King David of Scotland,* who had lost the best part of his kingdom and could not recover it out of the hold of the Englishmen, departed to Paris to King Philip. Thus an alliance was made between Scotland and France, which endured a long season after, and the French King sent men of war into Scotland to keep war against the Englishmen. The French King thought that the Scots would make so much trouble to the realm of England that the Englishmen would not come over the sea to annoy him.

CHAPTER XII

HOW KING EDWARD AND ALL HIS ALLIES DID DEFY THE FRENCH KING

Thus the winter passed and summer came, and the lords of England and of Almaine (*Germany*) prepared themselves to accomplish their enterprise.

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* King David, the son of Robert Bruce, married the Lady Joan, sister of King Edward the Third. In 1346, while he was making war against the English, he was captured, and remained a prisoner for eleven years. When he was released in 1357 his ransom was fixed at £100,000 = $500,000, about $5,000,000 of our money.

The French King worked as much as he could to the contrary, for he knew their plans. King Edward made all his provision in England, and all his men of war, to be ready to pass the sea immediately after the feast of Saint John; and so they did.

Thus King Edward lay at the town of Vilvorde and kept daily at his cost and charge almost sixteen hundred men of arms, all come from the other side of the sea, and ten thousand archers, beside all other provisions; the which was a marvelous great expense, beside the great rewards that he had given to the lords, and beside the great armies that he had on the sea.*

The French King on his part had set Genoese, Normans, Bretons, Picards, and Spaniards to be ready on the sea to invade England as soon as the war opened.

The lords of Germany agreed that the King of England might well set forward (*begin the war*) within fifteen days after; and they agreed to send their defiance to the French King—first the King of England, the Duke of Gueldres, the Marquis of Juliers, Sir Robert d'Artois, Sir John of Hainault, the Marquis of Brandebourg, the Archbishop of Cologne, Sir Waleran his brother, and all other lords of the empire.†

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* The Lords and Commons of England granted to the king for the expenses of the war one ninth of the wool crop, one ninth of the grain crop, one lamb and one sheep in every nine, etc. The booty afterwards taken in France was sufficient to pay most of the cost of the war.

† It was the custom in those days of chivalry to send a mes-

These defiances were written and sealed by all the lords except the Duke of Brabant, who said he would do his deed by himself at time convenient. The Bishop of Lincoln bore these defiances into France and delivered them to the French King.

CHAPTER XIII

HOW KING EDWARD TOOK ON HIMSELF TO BEAR THE ARMS OF FRANCE AND TO BE CALLED KING THEREOF

When King Edward came into Brabant and went straight to Brussels, the Duke of Gueldres, Sir John of Hainault, and all the lords of the empire, brought him thither to take advice and counsel what should be further done in the matter that they had begun.

There the King of England was urged by all his allies of the empire that he should require the knights of Flanders to aid and to maintain his war, and to defy the French King and to go with him; and if they would do this he was to promise them to recover Lille, Douay, and Bethune (*towns that they had lost*).

The request was well received by the Flemings, and they said to the king: "Sir, we would gladly do this; but, Sir, we be bound by faith and oath and on

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sage of defiance to the enemy, and after it had been delivered the war was begun.

the sum of two millions of florins deposited in the Pope's chamber, that we may make nor move no war against the King of France, on pain of losing the said sum, and beside that to be excommunicated (*expelled from the Church*).

"But, Sir, if ye will take on you the arms of France and quarter them with the arms of England and call yourself King of France, as ye ought to be of right, then we will take you for the rightful King of France and demand of you quittance of our bonds. By this means we shall be put in the right, and we will go with you whithersoever ye will have us."

Then the king took counsel, for he thought it was a serious matter to take on himself the arms of France, and the name of king of that country, when, so far, he had conquered nothing thereof, nor could he tell whether he should conquer it or not. And, on the other side, he was loath to refuse the aid of the Flemings, who could give him more aid than any others.

So the king took counsel of the lords of the empire and with his special friends.

So that finally, the good and the evil weighed, he answered the Flemings that if they would swear to this agreement and promise to maintain his war, he would do all this with a good will, and promised to get them again their towns of Lille, Douay, and Bethune; and they answered that they were content.

Then the king quartered the arms of France with

England, and from thenceforth took on him the name of the King of France, and so continued.* And he determined that the next summer they would make great war into France, and then every man departed and went home.

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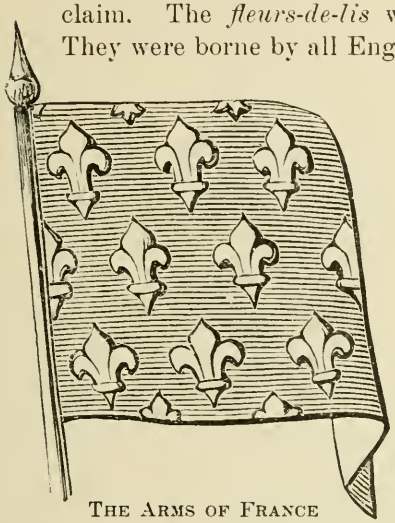
* King Edward the Third of England claimed the kingship of France, and added *fleurs-de-lis* to the royal arms to mark his claim. The *fleurs-de-lis* were the royal arms of France. They were borne by all English kings from 1340 until 1801, although the English lost all their French possessions (except the town of Calais) as early as 1431.



THE ARMS OF FRANCE
Golden lilies on a blue field.

The arms of England since the time of King Richard the Lion-Heart (A. D. 1194) had been three golden lions (or leopards) on a red shield.

The arms of France were golden lilies (*fleurs-de-lis*) on a field of blue. From the time of Edward the Third the English kings claimed to be kings of France and quartered the two shields, in witness of their claim. Edward the Third added the motto *Dieu et mon Droit*—that is to say, I fight for the cause of God and to maintain my rights.

In the days of chivalry the coat of arms of a knight was quite as important as his name. The arms stood for his name and family. There was no way in which the English King could more solemnly claim the throne of France than by this change in his arms, and the king, like every one else, considered the change "a serious matter."

CHAPTER XIV

HOW THE FRENCHMEN BRENT (*BURNED*) IN THE LANDS OF SIR JOHN OF HAINAULT

Now let us speak of King Philip of France, who greatly fortified his navy that he had on the sea; and he had a great retinue of Genoese, Normans, Bretons, and Picards. They did that winter great damage to the realm of England. They did much sorrow to the Englishmen, for they were a great number, about forty thousand men.

There was no one could issue out of England, but that he was robbed, taken, or slain; so the French won great pillage, and specially they won a great ship called the Christofer, laden with wools, as she was going into Flanders, the which ship had cost the King of England much money, and all they that were taken within the ship were slain and drowned; of the which conquest the Frenchmen were right joyous.

The French King then sent and wrote to the Lord John of Coucy and divers others to ride into the lands of Sir John of Hainault, and to burn and destroy there as much as they might. They obeyed, and gathered together to the number of five hundred spears; and so in a morning they came before the town of Chimay,* and gathered together there a great prey (*plunder*). So the Frenchmen burned the suburbs of Chimay and several other villages in Hainault.

* Pronounced shē-mā'. Froissart died in this town about 1410.

The city of Aubenton besieged and taken by the Earl of Hainault.

CHAPTER XV

OF THE BATTLE ON THE SEA NEAR SLUYS,* IN FLANDERS, BETWEEN THE KING OF ENGLAND AND THE FRENCHMEN (A. D. 1340)

Now let us leave speaking of Hainault and speak of the King of England, who was on the sea intending to make war against the Frenchmen. On Midsummer even, in the year of our Lord MCCCXL, all the English fleet departed out of the river of Thames and took the way to Sluys.

At the same time the French fleet was on the sea with more than six score great vessels, beside others. There they were placed by the French king to prevent the King of England's passage.†

The King of England came sailing till he came before Sluys. And when he saw so great a number of ships that their masts seemed to be like a great forest, he demanded of the master of his ship what people he thought they were.

He answered and said: "Sir, I think they are Normans, placed here by the French King, who hath done great displeasure in England, burned your town of Hampton, and taken your great ship the Christofer."

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* Pronounced slois.

† The French had four hundred ships in all (one hundred and forty large ones) and forty thousand men; thirty thousand of these perished. The English had two hundred and sixty ships. Most of the French ships were hired from Castile and Genoa.

"Ah," quoth the king, "I have long desired to fight with the Frenchmen, and now shall I fight with some of them by the grace of God and Saint George; for truly they have done me so many displeasures that I shall be revenged, if I may."

Then the king set all his ships in order, the greatest in front, well furnished with archers, and ever between two ships of archers he had one ship with men of arms; and then he made another battle (*division*) to lie at a little distance, with archers, to help them that were most weary, if need were.

And there was a great number of countesses, ladies, knights' wives, and other damsels, that were going to see the queen at Gaunt; these ladies the king caused to be safely guarded by three hundred men of arms and five hundred archers.

When the king and his marshals had arranged his battles (*divisions*), he drew up the sails and turned a little to get the wind from a favorable direction.

And when the Normans saw them turn back they wondered why they did so, and some said, "They think themselves not able to meddle with us, wherefore they will go back." They saw that the King of England was there personally, because they saw his banners.

Then the Frenchmen set their fleet in order, for they were wise and good men of war on the sea, and did set the Christofer, the which they had won the year before, foremost, and so attacked their enemies.

There began a sore battle on both parts: archers and crossbows began to shoot, and men of arms ap-

The sea fight at La Rochelle.

proached and fought hand to hand ; and the better to come together they had great grappling hooks of iron, to cast out of one ship into another, and so to tie them fast together.

There were many deeds of arms done, taking and rescuing again, and at last the great Christofer was won by the Englishmen, and all that were within it taken or slain.

Then there was great noise and cry, and the Englishmen fortified the Christofer with archers, and made this ship pass on in front to fight with the Genoese. This battle was right fierce and terrible ; for battles on the sea are more dangerous and fiercer than battles by land.

For on the sea there is no retreating nor fleeing. There is no remedy but to fight and to take the chance, and every man to show his boldness.

The battle endured from the morning till it was noon, and the Englishmen endured much pain, for their enemies were four against one, and all good men on the sea.

There the King of England proved himself a noble knight ; he was in the flower of his youth. In like wise so was the Earl of Derby, Pembroke, Hereford, Huntingdon, Northampton, and Gloucester, Sir Raynold Cobham, Sir Richard Stafford, the Lord Percy, Sir Walter of Manny, Sir Henry of Flanders, Sir John Beauchamp,* the Lord Felton, Sir John Chandos, the Lord Delaware, the Lord of Multon, Sir

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* Pronounced Beech-ham.

Robert d'Artois, and divers other lords and knights, who bore themselves so valiantly that they obtained the victory.

So that the Frenchmen, Normans, and others were discomfited, slain, and drowned; there was not one that escaped, but all were slain.*

CHAPTER XVI

HOW KING ROBERT OF SICILY DID ALL THAT HE MIGHT TO PACIFY THE KINGS OF FRANCE AND ENGLAND

In this season there reigned a king in Sicily called Robert, who was reputed to be a great astrologer,† and always he warned the French King in no wise to fight against the King of England; for he said the King of England was destined to be right fortunate in all his deeds. This King Robert would gladly have seen these two kings in good agreement, for he loved so much the crown of France that he was right sorry to see the desolation thereof.

This King of Sicily was at Avignon with Pope

* From the earliest days England claimed the sovereignty of the narrow seas that washed her coasts, and she has maintained it in a hundred battles since. As early as A. D. 1200 an order was issued to all English ships of war to force all foreign vessels to dip their colors and to lower their sails in salute, thus recognizing English pre-eminence on the sea.

† King Robert was an astrologer who studied the stars to tell the fortunes supposed to be written in the sky.

Clement, and with the college of cardinals there, and foretold the perils that were likely to happen in the realm of France by the war between the said two kings, desiring them that they would find some means to appease them. Whereunto the Pope and the cardinals answered that they would gladly help, if the two kings would listen to them.

CHAPTER XVII

HOW SIR CHARLES DE BLOIS * BESIEGED THE COUNTESS OF MONTFORT † IN HENNEBONT ‡ IN THE YEAR 1342

When the Countess of Montfort # and her company understood that the Frenchmen were coming to lay siege to the town of Hennebont, it was commanded to sound the watch-bell alarm, and every man was to be armed and to assemble for defense.

So when Sir Charles of Blois and the Frenchmen came near to the town they commanded to lodge there that night. Some of the young lusty companions with him came skirmishing close to the barriers of the town, and some of them within issued out to them, so that there was great fighting. But the Genoese and Frenchmen lost more than they won.

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* Pronounced blwä.

† Pronounced môñ-fōr′.

‡ Pronounced en-bôñ′.

The Countess of Montfort, Princess Joan of Flanders, was an ally of the King of England. Her husband, John of Montfort, and Charles of Blois both claimed to be rightful dukes of Brittany in France.

When night came on, every man went to his lodging. The next day the lords agreed to assail the barriers; and the third day they made a great assault on the barriers from morning till it was noon. Then the assailants drew back sore beaten, and divers of them were slain.

When the lords of France saw their men draw back they were sore displeased, and caused the assault to begin again fiercer than it was before, and they that were within defended themselves valiantly.

The countess herself wore harness (*armor*) on her body and rode on a great courser * from street to street, desiring her people to make a good defense; and she caused damsels and other women to carry stones and quicklime to the walls, to be cast down on their enemies.

This lady did there an hardy enterprise. She mounted up to the height of a tower, to see the order of battle of the Frenchmen outside of the walls. She saw how that the lords and other people of the host were all gone out of their field to the assault. Then she took again her courser, armed as she was, and caused three hundred men ahorseback to be ready, and she went with them to another gate, where there was none of the enemy.

She issued out, she and her company, and dashed

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* The riding horses of men (called *hackneys*) and of women (*palfreys*) were small, swift, and easy-paced. The war horses of the knights, on the contrary (called *great horses* or *great coursers*), were large, heavy, slow, sure-footed animals fit for fighting and to carry heavy armor.

John of Montfort and the countess welcomed by the citizens of Nantes in Brittany.

into the French camp, and cut down tents and set fire in their lodgings. She found no defense there, but only a few varlets * and boys, who ran away.

When the lords of France looked behind them and saw their lodgings afire, and heard the cry and noise there, they returned to the field, crying "Treason! treason!" so that their attack was given up.

When the countess saw that, she drew together her company, and when she saw she could not enter again into the town without great damage, she took another road and went to the Castle of Brest, which was not far away. When Sir Louis of Spain, who was marshal of the French host, came to the field and saw their lodgings burning and saw the countess and her company going away, he followed after her with a great number of soldiers.

He chased her so closely that he slew and hurt divers of them that were behind, but the countess and the most part of her company rode so well that they came to Brest, and there they were received with great joy.

The next day the lords of France, who had lost their tents and their provisions, decided to lodge in bowers of trees nearer to the town; and they wondered greatly when they knew that the countess herself had done that deed.

They of the town knew not where the countess was, whereof they were in great trouble, for it was five days before they heard any tidings.

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* Varlets = servants.

The countess did so much at Brest that she got together five hundred spearmen, and then about midnight she departed from Brest, and by the sunrising she came along by one side of the French host, and came to one of the gates of Hennebont, which was opened for her, and therein she entered and all her company with great noise of trumpets; whereof the French host had great marvel.

Then began a fierce assault which lasted till noon, but the Frenchmen lost more than those within the town. At noon the assault ceased: then they took counsel that Sir Charles de Blois should go from that siege and assault the Castle of Auray. The Lord Louis of Spain and the viscount of Rohan, with all the Spaniards, were still to abide before Hennebont.

They sent for twelve great engines to cast stones into the town and castle day and night. So they divided their host, leaving one part still before Hennebont, the other with Sir Charles of Blois before Auray.

Now let us speak of the Countess of Montfort, who was besieged in Hennebont by Sir Louis of Spain. He had so broken and bruised the walls of the town with his engines that they within began to be dismayed.

Then the countess desired the lords and knights that were there, that for the love of God they should be in no doubt; for she said she was sure that they should have succor within three days. The next morning the lords in the town took counsel again, so that they were almost agreed to give up the town.

Then the countess looked down along the sea, out at a window in the castle, and began to smile for great joy, as if she had seen the relief coming which she had so long desired.

Then she cried out aloud and said twice, "I see the succors (*the relieving army*) of England coming!" Then they of the town ran to the walls and saw a great number of ships, great and small, coming toward Hennebont. They thought it was certainly the succors of England, who had been on the sea sixty days by reason of contrary winds.

CHAPTER XVIII

HOW SIR WALTER OF MANNY BROUGHT THE ENGLISHMEN INTO BRITTANY (A. D. 1342)

Then the countess provided halls and chambers to lodge the lords of England that were coming; and when they were landed she came to them respectfully and feasted them as best she might, and thanked them right humbly.

All that night and the next day also the engines of the besiegers never ceased to cast great stones into the town, and after dinner Sir Walter of Manny said: "I have a great desire to issue out of the town and to break down this great engine that standeth so near us, if any will follow me and do it."

Then two brave knights said they would not fail to help him at this his first beginning. Then they

put on their armor and issued out secretly by a certain gate, and with them three hundred archers, who shot so wholly together that those who were guarding the engine fled away. And the men at arms who came after the archers slew divers of them that fled, and beat down the great engine and broke it all to pieces.

Then they ran in among the tents and lodgings and set fire in divers places and slew and hurt divers, till the French host began to stir. Then they withdrew fair and easily, and they of the host ran after them like madmen.

Then Sir Walter said: "Let me never be beloved by my lady, if I do not have a combat with one of these followers"; and therewith he turned his spear, and likewise so did his companions.

They ran at the first comers: there might well a been legs seen turned upward. (*Many of the besiegers were overthrown.*)

There might well a been seen on both parts many noble deeds, taking and rescuing. The Englishmen drew off wisely and made a stand till all their men were safe.

And all the men of the town issued out to rescue their company, and caused them of the host to recoil back. So when they of the host saw how they could do no good, they retired to their lodgings (*camp*), and they of the fortress in like wise to their lodgings.

Then the countess descended down from the castle joyously and came and kissed Sir Walter de Manny and his companions, one after another, two or three times, like a valiant lady as she was.

CHAPTER XIX

OF THE ORDER OF SAINT GEORGE, THAT KING EDWARD ESTABLISHED IN THE CASTLE OF WINDSOR*

In this season the King of England took pleasure in rebuilding the Castle of Windsor, which was begun by King Arthur, and there first began the Table Round, whereby sprang the fame of so many noble knights throughout all the world.

Then King Edward determined to make an order and a brotherhood of a certain number of knights, to be called Knights of the Blue Garter, and ordained a feast to be kept yearly at Windsor on Saint George's day.

And to begin this order the king assembled together earls, lords, and knights of his realm, and told them his intention; and they all joyously agreed to his pleasure, because they saw it was an honorable thing, whereby amity should grow and increase among them.

Then was there chosen a certain number of the valiantest men of the realm, and they swore to maintain the rules of the order, such as should be devised. And the king made a chapel of Saint George in

* The order of Saint George, now called the order of the Garter, is one of the most ancient orders of knighthood, and perhaps the most famous of any existing order. It is bestowed only on princes and great nobles. It was founded in the year 1344. Its chief insignia are the star and the garter.

the Castle of Windsor, and established certain canons (*priests*) there to serve God, and endowed them with a fair rent. Then the king sent to publish this feast by his heralds into France, Scotland, Burgundy, Hainault, Flanders, Brabant, and into the empire of Almaine (*Germany*), giving to every knight and squire that would come to the said feast fifteen days of safe-conduct* before the feast and after; which feast was to begin at Windsor on Saint George's day next after in the year of our Lord MCCCXLIV, and the queen was to be there, accompanied with three hundred ladies and damosels, all of noble descent, and appareled accordingly.

CHAPTER XX

HOW THE DUKE OF NORMANDY LAID SIEGE TO AIGUILLON† WITH SIXTY THOUSAND MEN (A. D. 1346)

The Duke of Normandy and the lords of France came to the Castle of Aiguillon (*an English castle in France*), where they laid their siege about the fair meadows along by the river, every lord among his own company, as it was ordered by the marshals.

This siege endured till the feast of Saint Remy:

* A safe-conduct is usually a passport in writing allowing a person to pass through an enemy's country unmolested. Here the safe-conduct was general to all knights of France, Germany, etc., whether they were enemies or not. During this feast they were the king's guests, and were safe going and returning.

† Pronounced ā-güē'-yôṅ.

there were at least sixty thousand men of war, ahorseback and afoot. They made every day two or three assaults, and most commonly from the morning till it was near night without ceasing, for ever there came new assaulters that would not allow them within to rest.

The lords of France saw well they could not come to the fortress unless they passed the river, which was large and deep.

Then the duke commanded that a bridge should be made, whatsoever it cost, to pass the river. There were set awork more than three hundred workmen, who did work day and night.

When the knights within saw this bridge more than half made over the river, they got ready three ships and entered into them, and so came on the workmen and chased them away with their defenders. And there they broke to pieces that which had been long amaking.

When the French lords saw that, then they got ready other ships to resist the English ships, and then the workmen began again to work on the bridge, trusting in their defenders.

And when they had worked half a day and more, Sir Walter of Manny and his company entered into a ship, and came on the workmen and made them to leave work and to return back, and broke again all that they had made.

This business was repeated nearly every day; but at last the Frenchmen kept their workmen so well that the bridge was made in spite of all.

And then the French lords and all their army passed over in order of battle, and they assaulted the castle a whole day together without ceasing, but nothing they won. And at night they returned to their lodgings. And they within the castle mended all that was broken, for they had with them workmen enough.

The next day the Frenchmen divided their assaulters into four parts, the first to begin in the morning and to continue till nine, the second till noon, the third to evening time, and the fourth till night.

In this manner they assailed the castle six days together; but the Frenchmen won nothing.

Then the Frenchmen took other counsel: they sent to Toulouse for eight great engines, and they made four greater, and they made all twelve to cast stones day and night against the castle. But they within were so well shielded that never a stone of the engines did them any hurt; it broke somewhat the covering of some houses.

Those within also had great engines, which broke down all the engines without, for in a short space they broke six of the greatest of them all to pieces.

During this siege oftentimes Sir Walter of Manny issued out with a hundred or six score companions, and went on the other side the river aforaging, and returned again with great booty in the sight of them without.

On a certain day the Lord Charles of Montmorency, marshal of the French host, rode forth with some five hundred men with him, and when he

returned he drove before him a great number of cattle that he had got together in the country to refresh the host with victual; and by chance he encountered Sir Walter of Manny.

There was between them a great fight and many overthrown, hurt, and slain; the Frenchmen were five against one. Tidings thereof came unto Aiguillon; then every man that could issued out, the Earl of Pembroke first of all, and his company. And when he came he found Sir Walter of Manny afoot, surrounded by his enemies.

Incontinent (*immediately*) he was rescued and remounted again, and in the meantime some of the Frenchmen chased their beasts quickly into the host, or else they had lost them, for they that issued out of Aiguillon set so fiercely on the Frenchmen that they put them to flight and delivered their companions that were taken, and took many Frenchmen prisoners, and Sir Charles of Montmorency had much work to escape himself. Then the Englishmen returned into Aiguillon.

Thus every day, almost, there were such rencounters beside the assaults. On a certain day all the French host armed themselves, and the duke commanded that a part should make assault from the morning till noon, and another part from noon till night. And the duke promised that whosoever could win the bridge of the gate should have in reward a hundred crowns.

Also the duke, the better to maintain this assault, caused to come on the river divers ships and barges.

Some of the Frenchmen entered into them to pass the river, and some went by the bridge. At the last some of them took a little vessel and went under the bridge, and did cast great hooks of iron to the drawbridge of the castle, and then drew it to them so strongly that they broke the chains of iron that held the drawbridge, and so pulled down the bridge perforce.

Then the Frenchmen leaped on the bridge so hastily that one overthrew another, for every man desired to win the hundred crowns.

They within the walls cast down bars of iron, pieces of timber, pots of lime, and hot water, so that many were overthrown from the bridge into the water, and many were slain and sore hurt.

Howbeit, the bridge was won perforce, but it cost more than it was worth, for they could not, for all that, win the gate beyond the bridge.

Then the French drew back to their lodgings, for it was late; then they within issued out, and made their drawbridge new again, and stronger than ever it was before.

The next day there came to the duke two skillful men, masters in carpentry, and said: "Sir, if ye will let us have timber and workmen, we will make four scaffolds as high or higher than the walls." The duke commanded that it should be done.

So these four scaffolds were made in four ships, but it was long first, and cost much before they were finished.

Then certain men were appointed to assail the castle in them; and they entered into the ships.

The town of Duras besieged and taken by the English (1424).

And when they were passed half the river, they within the castle let go four martinets * that they had newly made to resist against these scaffolds.

These four martinets did cast out so great stones, and so many fell on the scaffolds, that in a short space they were all broken, so that those that were within them could not be shielded by them, and they were obliged to draw back again. And before they were again at land one of the scaffolds sunk in the water, with the most part of them that were within it; the which was great damage, for therein were good knights.

When the duke saw that he could not accomplish his intent by that means, he caused the other three scaffolds to rest. Then he could see no way how he might get the castle, yet he had promised not to depart thence till he had it at his will, unless the king his father did send for him.

Then he sent the Constable of France to Paris to the king, to recite to him the state of the siege of

* Martinets = catapults = engines for casting stones. Some of these engines cast stones weighing three hundred pounds, and with force sufficient to batter down stone walls. Gunpowder was not used at the battle of Cressy, though it was well known. It is probable that cannon were used at the siege of Aiguillon (A. D. 1346). Cannon were used in 1327 in the war against the Scots, and in 1338 they were employed by the French. In 1340 Edward the Third ordered thirty-two tons of gunpowder to be made. The cannon employed in these wars were small affairs. You can see pictures of them. Those used at the siege of Calais by the English threw balls weighing about a quarter of a pound only, or else a kind of arrow or bolt.

Aiguillon. The king's mind was that the duke should continue there still, till he had won them by famine, since he could not have them by assault.

CHAPTER XXI

HOW THE KING OF ENGLAND CAME OVER THE SEA AGAIN, TO RESCUE THEM IN AIGUILLON (1346) *

The King of England, who had heard how his men were sore beset in the castle of Aiguillon, resolved to go over the sea into Gascony with a great army.

Then the king caused a great navy of ships to be ready in the haven of Hampton, and caused all manner of men of war to draw thither. About the feast of Saint John the Baptist in the year of our Lord God MCCCXLVI, the king departed from the queen and left her.

And he stablished the Lord Percy and the Lord Nevill to be wardens (*guardians*) of his realm with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Lincoln, and the Bishop of Dur-

* In July, 1346, Edward the Third came over from England in a fleet of about five hundred ships, with four thousand men at arms, ten thousand English archers, six thousand Irish, and twelve thousand Welsh. The main body of his army was of men seasoned and made hardy by his wars with the Scots. Man for man they were better soldiers than the French, though they were no braver. They were more experienced.

The Earl of Buckingham sailing with an English army to Flanders.

Notice that the English flags bear the lilies of France as well as the lions of England.

ham; for he never left his kingdom unless he left enough at home to keep and defend the realm, if need were.

Then the king rode to Hampton and there tarried. Then he entered into his ship and the Prince of Wales with him, and all other lords, earls, barons, and knights, with all their companies. They were in number four thousand men of arms and ten thousand archers, besides Irishmen and Welshmen that followed the host afoot.

Now I shall name you certain of the lords that went over with King Edward in that journey. First, Edward * his eldest son, Prince of Wales, who as then was of the age of sixteen years or thereabout, the Earls of Hereford, Northampton, Arundel, Cornwall, Warwick, Huntingdon, Suffolk, and Oxford.

And of barons, the Lord Mortimer, who was after Earl of March, the Lords John, Louis, and Roger of Beauchamp, and the Lord Raynold Cobham; of lords, the Lord of Mowbray, Ros, Lucy, Multon, Delaware, Basset, Berkeley, and Willoughby, with divers other lords; and of bachelors, there was John Chandos, Fitz-Warin, Peter and James Audley, with divers other that I can not name. A few there were of strangers.

Thus they sailed forth that day in the name of God. They were well onward on their way toward Gascony, when on the third day there rose a contrary

* This was Edward the Black Prince, the eldest son of Edward the Third.

wind and drove them near to Cornwall, and there they lay at anchor six days. At that time the king had other advice from Sir Godfrey Harcourt.

He counseled the king not to go into Gascony, but rather to land in Normandy, and said to the king: "Sir, the country of Normandy is one of the rich countries of the world. Sir, if ye will land there, there is none that shall resist you; the people of Normandy have not been used to the war, and all the knights and squires of the country are now at the siege before Aiguillon with the duke.

"And, Sir, there ye shall find great towns that are not walled, whereby your men shall make such captures that they shall be the better for them twenty year after; and, Sir, ye may follow with your army till ye come to Caen,* in Normandy. Sir, I require you to believe me."

The king, who was as then but in the flower of his youth, desiring nothing so much as to achieve deeds of arms, inclined greatly to the advice of the Lord Harcourt, whom he called cousin.

Then he commanded the mariners to set their course toward Normandy, and he said how he would be admiral for that voyage, and so sailed on before as governor of that navy, and they had a wind that was fair. Then the king arrived in the isle of Cotentin,† at a port called Saint-Vaast.

Tidings presently spread abroad that the English-

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* Caen, pronounced koṅ.

† Pronounced ko-toṅ-taṅ.

men had landed; the towns of Cotentin sent word thereof to Paris to King Philip. The French King had already heard that the King of England was on the sea with a great army, but he knew not what way he would go, whether into Normandy, Brittany, or Gascony.

As soon as he knew that the King of England was in Normandy he sent the Earl of Tancarville to the town of Caen, commanding him to keep that town against the Englishmen.

He said he would do his best, and departed from Paris with a good number of men of war, and so came to the town of Caen, where he was received with great joy.

PART III

THE WAR IN NORMANDY BETWEEN THE FRENCHMEN AND THE ENGLISH

CHAPTER XXII

HOW THE KING OF ENGLAND RODE IN THREE BATTLES (DIVISIONS) THROUGH NORMANDY

The King of England made two marshals of his host, the one the Lord Godfrey of Harcourt, and the other the Earl of Warwick, and the Earl of Arundel he made constable.* And he ordained three battles (*divisions*), one to go on his right hand, close to the seaside, and the other on his left hand, and the king himself in the midst, and every night all were to lodge (*encamp*) in one field.

Thus they set forth, and they that went by the sea took all the French ships that they found as they went. And they came to a good town called Barfleur, the which was immediately taken, for they within the town gave up for fear of death. Howbeit, for all that, the town was robbed, and much gold and silver was

* The Constable of France was the highest officer of the kingdom and had the command of the army. The Lord High Constable had similar rank and duties in England.

there found, and rich jewels.* There was found so much riches in the town that the very boys and servants of the host thought nothing of wearing good furred gowns.

After the town of Barfleur was thus taken and robbed, then they spread abroad in the country and did what they pleased, for there was nobody to resist them.

At last they came to a great and a rich town called Cherbourg; the town they won and robbed it, and burned part thereof, but into the castle they could not come, it was so strong and well garrisoned with men of war.

Then they passed forth and came to Montebourg, and took it, and robbed and burned it clean. In this manner they burned many other towns in that country, and won so much riches that it was marvel to reckon it.

Then they came to a great town called Carentan, where there was also a strong castle and many soldiers within to keep it. Then the lords came out of their ships and fiercely made assault: the burgesses (*citizens*) of the town were in great fear of their lives, and for their wives and children.

They allowed the Englishmen to enter into the town against the will of all the soldiers that were there.

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* It was the custom of war in those days that a town which yielded without fight should not be pillaged. But Froissart tells us that the custom was broken at Barfleur. Nowadays no towns are pillaged. War is made as merciful as it can be made.

When the soldiers within saw that, they retired into the castle. The Englishmen went into the town, and two days together they made sore assaults, so that when they who were within saw they would have no help, they yielded up, their lives and goods being spared, and so departed.

All this was done by the battle (*division*) that went by the seaside, and by them on the sea together. Now let us speak of the king's battle.

When he had sent his first battle along by the seaside, as ye have heard, whereof one of his marshals, the Earl of Warwick, was captain, then he made his other marshal lead his host on his left hand.

The Lord Godfrey as marshal, with five hundred men of arms, rode off from the king's battle six or seven leagues, burning and destroying the country, the which was plentiful of everything.

The granges (*barns*) were full of corn, the houses full of all riches, rich burgesses (*citizens*), carts and chariots, horse, swine, muttons, and other beasts. They took what they pleased and brought it into the king's host. But the soldiers made no count to the king nor to his officers of the gold and silver that they did get; they kept that to themselves.

CHAPTER XXIII

OF THE GREAT ASSEMBLY THAT THE FRENCH KING MADE TO RESIST THE KING OF ENGLAND

Thus by the Englishmen was burned, destroyed, robbed, wasted, and pillaged the good, plentiful country of Normandy. Then the French King sent for men of arms, dukes, earls, barons, knights, and squires, and assembled together the greatest number of people that had been seen in France for a hundred year.

He sent for men into so far countries that it was long before they came together, wherefore the King of England did what he liked in the meantime.

The French King heard all that he did, and swore that they should never return again unfought with, and that such hurts and damages as they had done should be dearly revenged.

Wherefore he sent letters to his friends in the empire, and also to the gentle King of Bohemia and to the Lord Charles his son, who from thenceforth was called King of Almaine (*Germany*).* He was made king by the aid of his father and the French King, and had taken on him the arms of the empire. The French King desired them to come to him to fight with the King of England, who had burned and wasted (*laid waste*) his country.

These princes and lords made them ready with great number of men of arms, and so came to the

* Charles was made Emperor of Germany in 1347.

French King. Also King Philip sent to the Duke of Lorraine, who came to serve him with three hundred spears; also there came other earls and nobles, every man with a fair company.

Ye have heard herebefore of the order of the Englishmen, how they went in three battles, the marshals on the right hand and on the left, the king and the Prince of Wales his son in the midst.

They rode but small journeys, and every day took their lodgings between noon and three of the clock, and found the country so fruitful that they needed not to make provision for their host, except wine; and yet they found reasonably sufficient thereof.

It was no marvel that they of the country were afraid, for before that time they had never seen men of war, nor did they know what war or battle meant.

They fled away as soon as they heard of the Englishmen's coming, and left their houses well stuffed, and granges full of corn; they knew not how to save and keep it.

The King of England and the prince had in their battle three thousand men of arms and six thousand archers, and ten thousand men afoot, besides the men of arms who rode with the marshals.

Thus, as ye have heard, the king rode forth wasting and burning the country without breaking the order of his armies.

When the king came to the town of Saint-Lo he took his lodgings without, but he sent his men before, and soon the town was taken and clean robbed. It is hard to imagine how great riches that was won

there, in cloths specially ; cloth would there have been sold good cheap, if there had been any buyers.

Then the king went toward Caen, the which was a greater town and full of drapery and other merchandise, and rich burgesses, noble ladies and damosels, and fair churches, and specially two great and rich abbeys, one of the Trinity, another of Saint Stephen, and in the town was a good number of men of war.

The constable and other lords of France that night watched well the town of Caen, and in the morning armed themselves, with all the people of the town.

Then the constable ordered that none should issue out, but keep their defenses on the walls, gate, bridge, and river ; and they left the suburbs empty, for they thought they would have enough to do to defend the town.

They of the town said how they would issue out, for they were strong enough to fight with the King of England. When the constable saw their good wills, he said : " In the name of God so be it, ye shall not fight without me." Then they issued out in good order, and made good face to fight and to defend themselves and to put their lives in adventure (*at risk*).

CHAPTER XXIV

OF THE BATTLE OF CAEN, AND HOW THE ENGLISHMEN TOOK THE TOWN (A. D. 1346)

The same day the Englishmen rose early and apparelled them ready to go to Caen. The king heard mass before the sunrising and then took his horse, as did also the Prince of Wales his son, with Sir Godfrey of Harcourt, marshal of the host, whose counsel the king much followed.

Then they went forward with their battles in good array, and so approached the good town of Caen. When they of the town, who were ready in the field, saw these three battles coming in order, with their banners and standards waving in the wind, and the archers, the which they had not been accustomed to see, they were sore afraid and fled away toward the town without any order or good array, in spite of all that the constable could do; then the Englishmen pursued them eagerly.

When the constable and the Earl of Tancarville saw that, they set themselves for safety in a gateway near the bridge, for the Englishmen had entered into the town.

Some of the knights and squires of France, such as knew the way to the castle, went thither, and the captain there received them all, for the castle was large. The Englishmen in the chase slew many, for they gave mercy to none.

How the Englishmen took the town of Caen, in Normandy (1346).

Then the constable and the Earl of Tancarville, being in the little tower at the bridge foot, looked along the street and saw their men slain without mercy; they feared to fall in their hands. At last they saw an English knight, with one eye, called Sir Thomas Holland, and five or six other knights with him.

They knew them, for they had seen them before in Prussia, in Granada, and in other countries. Then they called to Sir Thomas and said they would yield themselves prisoners.

Then Sir Thomas came thither with his company and mounted up into the gate, and there found the said lords with twenty-five knights with them, who yielded themselves to Sir Thomas, and he took them for his prisoners and left men of war to keep them, and then mounted again on his horse and rode into the streets, and saved many lives of ladies, damosels, and priests, for the soldiers were without mercy.

They of the town entered into their houses, and cast down into the street stones, timber, and iron, and slew and hurt more than five hundred Englishmen, wherewith the king was sore displeased.

At night when he heard thereof, he commanded that the next day all should be put to the sword and the town burned; but then Sir Godfrey of Harcourt said: "Dear Sir, for God's sake restrain your spirit, and let it suffice you what ye have already done.

"Ye have yet a great voyage to do before you come to Calais, whither ye purpose to go; and, Sir, in this town there is much people who will defend their

houses, and it will cost many of your men their lives before ye have all at your will, whereby perchance ye may not be able to take Calais, which should redound to your loss.

"Sir, spare your people, for ye shall have need of them before this month has passed. For I think verily your adversary King Philip will meet with you to fight, and ye shall find many difficult ways and encounters, in which your men, even if ye had more, shall stand you in good stead; and, Sir, without any further slaying ye shall be lord of this town; men and women will put all that they have to your pleasure."

Then the king said: "Sir Godfrey, you are our marshal; order everything as ye will." Then Sir Godfrey with his banner rode from street to street, and commanded in the king's name that none should be so hardy as to put fire to any house, to slay any person, man nor woman. When they of the town heard that cry they received the Englishmen into their houses and made them good cheer, and some opened their coffers (*strong boxes of money*) and bade them take what they liked if they would but spare their lives.

However, there were done in the town many evil deeds, murders, and robberies. Thus the Englishmen were lords of the town three days and won great riches, which they sent by barks and barges to the place where all their navy lay.

Then the king sent the Earl of Huntingdon with two hundred men of arms and four hundred archers, with his navy and prisoners and the riches that they had got, back again into England.

And the king bought of Sir Thomas Holland the Constable of France and the Earl of Tancarville, and paid for them twenty thousand nobles.*

CHAPTER XXV

THE ENGLISH ARMY COMES NEAR TO PARIS

Thus the King of England sent into England his navy of ships loaded with clothes, jewels, vessels of gold and silver, and other riches,† and more than sixty knights and three hundred burgesses, who were prisoners.

Then he departed from the town of Caen and rode in the same order as he did before, burning and exiling the people of the country, and from thence rode to a great town called Louviers.‡

It was the chief town of all Normandy for drapery, riches, and was full of merchandise. The Englishmen soon entered therein, for then it was not closed with

* Each of the French knights was bound to pay a ransom to his captor, Sir Thomas Holland. They belonged to him as his spoils of war till the ransom was paid. The king simply bought the captor's rights, and they then became *his* prisoners. The ransom of a nobleman was large, and brave knights grew rich through the capture of many prisoners. Twenty thousand nobles would be about $300,000 of our money. The ransom of King David of Scotland was about $5,000,000 of our money (see Chapter XI).

† The booty taken in the town of Caen was more than enough to pay the whole cost of the expedition up to that time. No wonder that the war was popular with the common folk of England as well as with the nobles. It cost them nothing in taxes.

‡ Pronounced lō-vyā'.

walls. It was overrun, spoiled (*plundered*), and robbed without mercy: there was won great riches.

Then they entered into the country, and burned and pillaged all the country except the good towns closed with walls and the castles, on which the king made no assault, because of the sparing of his people and his artillery.

Then King Philip of France removed to Saint-Denis, and to Saint-Denis were already come the King of Bohemia, the Duke of Lorraine, the Earl of Flanders, and many other great lords and knights, ready to serve the French King.

When the people of Paris saw their king depart, they came to him and kneeled down, and said: "Ah, Sir, and noble king, what will ye do? leave thus this noble city of Paris?"

The king said: "My good people, doubt ye not; the Englishmen will approach you no nearer than they be." "Why so, Sir?" quoth they; "they be within two leagues, and as soon as they know of your departing they will come and assail us; and we not able to defend them. Sir, tarry here still and help to defend your good city of Paris."

"Speak no more," quoth the king, "for I will go to Saint-Denis to my men of war; for I will encounter the Englishmen and fight against them, whatsoever fall thereof (*may befall*)." *

* Edward the Third's army had had a long training in the wars with the Scots. They were no braver than the French, but they had learned to obey orders and to act together; whereas the French were inexperienced and without discipline, though very brave.

CHAPTER XXVI

HOW THE FRENCH KING FOLLOWED THE KING OF ENGLAND

Now let us speak of King Philip, who was at Saint-Denis and his people about him, and his host daily increased. Then on a day he departed, and rode so long that he came to a place three leagues from Amiens,* and there he tarried.

The King of England knew not where to pass the river of Somme, which was large and deep, and all bridges were broken and the passages (*fords*) well defended.

Then at the king's commandment his two marshals with a thousand men of arms and two thousand archers went along the river to find some passage, and came to the bridge of Remy, which was well defended by a great number of knights and squires and men of the country.

The Englishmen alighted afoot and assailed the Frenchmen from the morning till it was noon; but the bridge was so well fortified and defended that the Englishmen departed without winning anything.

Then they went to a great town called Fountains, on the river of Somme, which was clean robbed and burned, for it was not closed with walls.

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* Pronounced ä-mē-an'.

Then they went to another town, but they could not win the bridge, it was so well kept and defended.

The French King had well defended all the passages, intending that the King of England should not pass the river of Somme.

When the two marshals of the English host had tried all places to find passage and could find none, they returned again to the king and told him how they could find no passage in any place.

The same night the French King came to Amiens with more than a hundred thousand men. The King of England was right pensive (*apprehensive*), and the next morning heard mass before the sunrising and then dislodged; and every man followed the marshal's banners.

The same day the French King departed from Amiens and came to the English camp about noon; and the Englishmen were departed thence in the morning. The Frenchmen found there great provision that the Englishmen had left behind them, because they had departed in haste.

There they found flesh ready on the spits, bread and pasties in the ovens, wine in tuns and barrels, and the tables ready laid. There the French King lodged and tarried for his lords.

That night the King of England was lodged at Oisemont.* At night the king assembled together his council and caused to be brought before him certain French prisoners.

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* Pronounced wäz-moń'.

The king right courteously demanded of them if there were any among them that knew any passage, where he and his host might pass over the river of Somme; if he would show him thereof, he should be quit of his ransom.

There was a varlet (*servant*) called Gobin Agace who stepped forth and said to the king: "Sir, I promise you, on the jeopardy of my head, that I will bring you to such a place, where ye and all your host shall pass the river of Somme without peril. There be certain places in the passage (*ford*) that ye shall pass twelve men abreast two times between day and night; ye shall not go in the water to the knees. But when the flood tide cometh the river then waxeth so great that no man can pass; but when the flood is gone, which is two times between day and night, then the river is so low that it may be passed without danger both ahorseback and afoot.

"The passage is hard in the bottom with white stones, so that all your carriages (*carts*) may go safely."

The king said: "If this be true that ye say, I acquit thee of thy ransom, thee and all thy company, and, moreover, shall give thee a hundred nobles."* Then the king commanded every man to be ready to depart at the sound of the trumpet.

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* A hundred nobles = $161, which would be worth about $1,600 of our money.

CHAPTER XXVII

OF THE BATTLE AT THE PASSAGE OF THE RIVER OF SOMME

The King of England slept not much that night, for at midnight he arose and sounded his trumpet; then incontinent (*immediately*) they made ready carriages and all things, and at the breaking of the day they departed and rode after the guiding of Gobin Agace, so that they came by the sunrising to the passage of the river. But then the flood was up, so that they might not pass; so the king tarried there till the ebb tide came.

The French King had his couriers (*scouts*) in the country, who brought him word of the doings of the Englishmen. Then he ordered a great baron of Normandy, called Sir Godemar du Fay, to go and keep the passage where the Englishmen must pass or else in none other place.

He had with him a thousand men of arms and six thousand afoot, with some Genoese crossbowmen. So they went to where the passage lay; and also he had with him a great number of men of the country, so that they were about twelve thousand men, one and other.

When the English host was come thither, Sir Godemar du Fay arranged all his company to defend the passage. The King of England stopped not for all that; but when the flood tide was gone he com-

manded his marshals to enter into the water in the name of God and Saint George.

Then they that were hardy and courageous entered on both sides, and many a man was overthrown. There were some of the Frenchmen that were as glad to joust (*fight*) in the water as on the dry land.

The Frenchmen defended so well the passage that the English had much to do. The Genoese did them great hurt with their crossbows. On the other side the archers of England shot so wholly together that the Frenchmen were obliged to give place to the Englishmen. There was a sore battle, and many a noble feat of arms done on both sides.

Finally the Englishmen passed over and assembled together in the field. The king and the Prince of Wales passed, and all the lords. Then the Frenchmen departed, each as he might best.

They that were there afoot could not flee, so that there were slain a great number of them. The chase endured more than a great league.

And as yet all the Englishmen had not passed the river, when certain scouts of the King of Bohemia came on such of them as were behind and took certain horses and carriages and slew divers before they could cross the ford.

When the French King heard how Sir Godemar du Fay and his company were discomfited, he tarried in the field and demanded of his marshals what was best to do.

The King of England, when he had passed the

river, thanked God, and so rode forth in like manner as he did before. Then he called Gobin Agace and did acquit him of his ransom and all his company, and gave him a hundred nobles and a good horse.

And so the king rode forth fair and easily, and his marshals rode to Crotoy on the seaside and burned the town, and found in the haven (*harbor*) many ships with wines. They brought the best thereof to the king's host.

This was on a Friday, and both battles of the marshals returned to the king's host about noon, and so lodged all together near to Cressy.

The King of England was well informed that the French King followed after him to fight. Then he said to his company: "Let us take here some plot of ground, for we will go no farther till we have seen our enemies. I have good cause here to abide them, for I am on the very land inherited by the queen my mother, which land was given to her at her marriage; I will challenge it of mine adversary King Philip of Valois."

And because that he had not the eighth part in number of men that the French King had, therefore he commanded his marshals to choose a plot of ground somewhat for his advantage; and so they did, and thither the king and his host went.

Then he sent his scouts to see if the French King went that day into the field or not. They returned again, and said that they could see no appearance of his coming.

Then every man took his lodging for that day,

to be ready in the morning at the sound of the trumpet in the same place.

This Friday the French King tarried still in Abbeville waiting for his company, and sent his two marshals to ride out to see the dealing of the Englishmen (*to see what they were doing*), and at night they returned, and said how the Englishmen were lodged in the fields.

That night the French King made a supper for all the chief lords that were there with him, and after supper the king desired them to be friends each to other.

The king looked for the Earl of Savoy, who was to come to him with a thousand spears, for he had already received wages for three months of them.

PART IV

THE BATTLE OF CRESSY (*1346*)

CHAPTER XXVIII

OF THE ORDER OF THE ENGLISHMEN AT THE BATTLE OF CRESSY (AUGUST 26, 1346)

On the Friday, as I said before, the King of England lay in the fields, for the country was plentiful of wines and other victual, and, if need had been, they had provisions following in carts and other carriages.

That night the king made a supper for all the chief lords of his host and made them good cheer; and when they were all departed to take their rest, then the king entered into his oratory (*chapel*) and kneeled down before the altar, praying God devoutly that if he fought the next day he might win the battle to his honor.

Then about midnight he laid him down to rest, and in the morning he rose betimes and heard mass, and the Prince of Wales his son with him, and the most part of his company were confessed. And after the mass was said he commanded every man to be

(French.) (English.)

The battle of Cressy (1346).

armed and to go to the field to the place before appointed.

Then the king caused a park (*an inclosure*) to be made by the wood side behind his host, and there were set all carts and carriages, and within the park were all their horses, for every man was afoot; and into this park there was but one entrance.

Then he ordained three battles (*divisions*). In the first was the young Prince of Wales, with him the Earl of Warwick and Oxford, the Lord Godfrey of Harcourt, Sir Raynold Cobham, Sir Thomas Holland, the Lord Stafford, the Lord of Mohun, the Lord Delaware, Sir John Chandos, Sir Robert Nevill, the Lord Thomas Clifford, the Lord Bourchier,* and divers other knights and squires that I can not name.

They were eight hundred men of arms and two thousand archers, and a thousand others with the Welshmen;† every lord went to the field appointed bearing his own banner and pennon.

In the second battle was the Earl of Northampton, the Earl of Arundel, the Lord Ros, the Lord Lucy, the Lord Willoughby, the Lord Basset, and divers other, about eight hundred men of arms and twelve hundred archers.‡

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* This was an ancestor of Lord Berners, who put Froissart's Chronicles into English.

† The Welshmen were light infantry, armed with swords and with short lances.

‡ Each English archer carried his bow and twenty-four arrows. He wore a steel headpiece; a leather jerkin, or jacket, plated with iron; and he carried a short sword, a dagger, sometimes a long pike, and a heavy leaden mallet. He always carried a long

The king commanded the third battle; he had seven hundred men of arms and two thousand archers.*

Then the king leaped on a little horse, with a white rod in his hand, one of his marshals on the one hand and the other on the other hand.

He rode from rank to rank, desiring every man to take heed that day to his honor. He spake it so sweetly and with so good countenance and merry cheer that all such as were discomfited took courage in the seeing and hearing of him.

And when he had thus visited all his battles, it was then nine (*o'clock*) of the day.

Then he caused every man to eat and drink a little, and so they did at their leisure.

And afterward they again arranged their battles; then every man lay down on the earth, and by him his headpiece (*helmet*) and bow, to be the fresher when their enemies should come.

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pointed stake to be driven into the ground, so as to protect the band of archers against attacks by horsemen. He was usually a brave, reckless young fellow, strong and able, and believed himself a match for anybody.

King Edward, who was a good soldier, had learned that his archers were, in fact, a match for men at arms (knights in armor) so long as they only attacked in front. So he set his archers in a place where they could not be attacked except in front. And to make them even bolder, he dismounted his own knights and placed them on foot among the archers.

* Froissart counts eight thousand five hundred Englishmen at the battle. In fact, there were about thirty thousand English and one hundred thousand French.

CHAPTER XXIX

THE ORDER OF THE FRENCHMEN AT CRESSY, AND HOW THEY BEHELD THE DEMEANOR OF THE ENGLISHMEN

This Saturday the French King rose early and heard mass in Abbeville in the abbey of Saint Peter, and he departed after the sunrising.

When he was out of the town two leagues, approaching toward his enemies, some of his lords said to him, "Sir, it were good that ye ordered your battles, and let all your footmen pass somewhat on before, that they be not troubled with the horsemen."

Then the king sent four knights to ride out in front to view the English host; and so they rode so near that they might well see what they were doing.

The Englishmen saw them well and knew well how they were come thither to view them; they let them alone, and let them return as they came. And when the French King saw these four knights return again, he tarried till they came to him, and said, "Sirs, what tidings?"

These four knights each of them looked on other, for there was none would speak before his companion; finally the king said to one of them, who pertained (*belonged*) to the King of Bohemia and was reputed for one of the valiantest knights of the world, "Sir, speak you."

Then he said: "Sir, I shall speak, since it pleaseth you, under the correction of my fellows. Sir, we have ridden and seen the behaving of your enemies: know ye for truth they are resting in three battles waiting for you.

"Sir, I will counsel you as for my part, saving your displeasure, that you and all your company remain here and lodge for this night, until they of your company that are behind have come hither.

"For before your battles are set in good order, it will be very late, and your people will be weary and out of order, and ye shall find your enemies fresh and ready to receive you.

"Early in the morning ye may order your battles at more leisure and observe your enemies with more deliberation, and consider well what way ye will assail them; for, Sir, surely they will wait for you."

Then the king commanded that it should be so done. Then his two marshals one rode before, another behind, saying to the soldiers under every banner, "Tarry and abide here in the name of God and Saint-Denis."

They that were foremost tarried, but they that were behind would not tarry, but rode forth, and said they would in no wise abide till they were as far forward as the foremost.

And when they who were before saw them come on behind, then they, also, rode forward again, so that neither the king nor his marshals could rule them.

So they rode without order or good array, till they came in sight of their enemies; and as soon as the

foremost saw them they retreated back without good array, whereof they behind wondered and were dismayed, and thought that the foremost company had been fighting.

The commons (*the common soldiers and the armed citizens*), of whom all the ways between Abbeville and Cressy were full, when they saw that they were near to their enemies, took their swords, and cried: "Down with them! let us slay them all."

There is no man, though he were present, that could imagine or show how evil (*bad*) was the order among the French party that day, and yet they were a marvelous great number.

CHAPTER XXX

OF THE BATTLE OF CRESSY BETWEEN THE KING OF ENGLAND AND THE FRENCH KING (1346)

The Englishmen, who were in three battles (*divisions*), lying on the ground to rest them, as soon as they saw the Frenchmen approach, rose upon their feet fair and easily without any haste and arranged their battles.

The first was the battle of the Prince of Wales.*

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* Edward, the Black Prince, born in 1330, was then sixteen years of age. This was his first great battle. He had already been made a knight; but he had not yet shown how brave and enterprising a soldier he was to be.

The archers stood in front and the men of arms supported them.

The Earl of Northampton and the Earl of Arundel with the second battle were on a wing in good order, ready to aid the prince's battle, if need were.

The lords and knights of France came not to the assembly in good order, for some came before and some came after in such haste and evil order that one of them did trouble another (*they were in each other's way*).

When the French King saw the Englishmen, his blood grew hot, and he said to his marshals, "Make the Genoese go on before and begin the battle in the name of God and Saint-Denis." *

There were of the Genoese crossbowmen about six thousand, but they were so weary of going afoot that day six leagues armed with their crossbows that they said to their officers, "We are not well able to fight this day, for we are not fit to do any great deed of arms; we have more need of rest."

These words came to the Earl of Alençon,† who said, "What sort of rascals are these, to faint and fail now at our utmost need?" Also at the same time there fell a great rain and there was lightning with terrible thunder, and before the rain there came flying over both battles a great number of crows for fear of the tempest coming.

Then presently the air began to wax (*grow*) clear,

* These fifteen thousand Genoese crossbowmen had been hired by the French King from their overlord the Prince of Mon'aco.

† He was the French King's brother; pronounce it ä-loṅ-sôṅ'.

and the sun to shine fair and bright right into the Frenchmen's eyes and on the Englishmen's backs.*

When the Genoese began to approach, they made a great cry to abash (*frighten*) the Englishmen, but they stood still and stirred not for all that.

Then the Genoese again the second time made another fierce cry, and stepped forward a little, and the Englishmen moved not one foot.

Thirdly, again they cried, and went forth till they came within shot; then they shot fiercely with their crossbows.

Then the English archers stepped forth one pace and let fly their arrows so wholly together and so thick, that it seemed like snow.

When the Genoese felt the arrows piercing through heads, arms, and breasts, many of them cast down their crossbows and did cut their strings and returned discomfited.

When the French King saw them fly away, he said, "Slay these rascals, for they will hinder and trouble us without reason."

Then ye should have seen the French men of arms dash in among them and kill a great number of them.

And still the Englishmen shot where they saw thickest press (*crowd*); the sharp arrows ran into the men of arms and into their horses, and many fell, horse and men, among the Genoese, and when they were down they could not rise again; the press was so thick that one overthrew another.

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*The battle began about four o'clock in the afternoon.

And also among the Englishmen there were certain rascals (*common men—peasants*) that went afoot with great knives, and they went in among the men of arms, and slew and murdered many as they lay on the ground, both earls, barons, knights, and squires, whereof the King of England was afterwards displeased, for he had rather they had been taken prisoners.

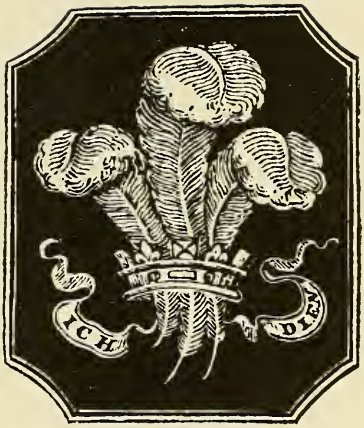
The valiant King of Bohemia, called Charles of Luxembourg, son to the noble Emperor Henry of Luxembourg, for all that he was nearly blind, when he understood the order of the battle, he said to them about him, "Where is the Lord Charles, my son?"

His men said, "Sir, we can not tell; we think he is fighting." Then he said: "Sirs, ye are my men, my companions and friends; I require you to bring me so far forward that I may strike one stroke with my sword."

They said they would do his commandment, and, so that they should not lose him in the press (*crowd*), they tied all the reins of their bridles each to other, and so they went on their enemies.

The Lord Charles of Bohemia, his son, who wrote himself King of Germany, came in good order to the battle; but when he saw that the battle was going against the French, he departed, I can not tell you which way.

The king, his father, was so far forward that he struck a stroke with his sword, yea, and more than four, and fought valiantly, and so did all his company. And they risked themselves so far forward that they were there all slain, and the next day they were found



Badge of the Prince of Wales.

in one place round about the king, and all their horses tied each to other.*

This battle of Cressy on this Saturday was right cruel and fierce, and many a feat of arms was done that came not to my knowledge.

Toward nightfall divers knights and squires lost their masters, and sometimes came on the Englishmen, who received them in such wise that they were slain; for there was no mercy given nor ransom taken, for so the Englishmen had determined beforehand.

On the day of the battle certain Frenchmen and Germans broke through the archers of the battle of the Prince of Wales by force and came and fought with the men of arms hand to hand.

Then the second battle of the Englishmen came to succor the prince's battle, and it was time, for they had then much trouble. And they who were with the prince sent a messenger to the king, who was on a little hill near a windmill.

Then the knight said to the king: "Sir, the Earl of Warwick and the Earl of Oxford, Sir Raynold Cobham, and others, such as be about the prince your son, are fiercely fought with and are sorely handled;

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* The emblem of the King of Bohemia was an ostrich feather; he used it as a badge. After the battle of Cressy the Prince of Wales took three ostrich feathers for the crest of his coat of arms and the motto *Ich dien* (I serve). Ever since that time this motto and the crest of three feathers have been displayed by the Princes of Wales, who are the eldest sons of English kings and the heirs to the English throne.

wherefore they desire you that you and your battle will come and aid them; for if the Frenchmen increase, as they fear that they may, your son and they shall have much ado."

Then the king said, "Is my son dead or hurt or on the earth felled?" "No, sir," quoth the knight, "but he is hard pressed; wherefore he hath need of your aid."

"Well," said the king, "return to him and to them that sent you hither, and say to them that they must send no more to me, as long as my son is alive; and also say to them that they must give the boy a chance to win his spurs. For, if God be pleased, I wish this day to be his and the honor thereof."

Then the knight returned again to them and repeated the king's words, which greatly encouraged them, and they were sorry that they had sent to the king as they did.*

Sir Godfrey of Harcourt (*who was fighting for the English*) would gladly that the Earl of Harcourt his brother (*who was fighting for the French*) might have been saved; but Sir Godfrey could not come to him in time, for he was slain before he could come at him, and so was also the Earl of Aumale his nephew.

In another place the Earl of Alençon and the Earl of Flanders fought valiantly, but finally they

* The king at Cressy stood on a hill overlooking the whole field, and he could see from his post that matters were going very well for the English in front of the prince's battle, and gave his answer accordingly.

could not resist the power of the Englishmen, and so there they also were slain, and divers other knights and squires.

Also the Earl Louis of Blois, nephew to the French King, and the Duke of Lorraine fought under their banners, but at last they were surrounded by a company of Englishmen and Welshmen, and there they were slain in spite of all their bravery. Also there were slain the Earl of Auxerre, the Earl of Saint-Pol, and many others.

In the evening the French King had left about him no more than threescore persons, one and other. His horse had been slain with an arrow, and one of the knights near him said to the king: "Sire, depart hence, for it is time; lose not yourself willfully: if ye are defeated at this time, ye shall be victorious again at another time."

And so he took the king's horse by the bridle and led him away in a manner perforce.

Then the king rode till he came to the Castle of Broye. The gate was closed, because it was by that time dark. Then the king called the captain, who came to the walls, and said, "Who is that calleth this time of night?"

Then the king said, "Open your gate quickly, for this is the unfortunate King of France."

The captain knew then it was the king, and opened the gate and let down the bridge. Then the king entered, and he had with him but five barons, Sir Charles of Montmorency and four others.

The king would not tarry there, but departed

thence about midnight, and so rode till he came in the morning to Amiens, and there he rested.

This Saturday the Englishmen never departed from their battles to chase any man, but kept in their places, and ever defended themselves against all such as came to assail them. This battle ended about evensong time (*vespers*).

CHAPTER XXXI

HOW THE NEXT DAY AFTER THE BATTLE THE ENGLISHMEN DISCOMFITED DIVERS FRENCHMEN

On this Saturday, when the night was come and the Englishmen heard no more noise of the Frenchmen, then they were sure that they had the victory, and that the Frenchmen were discomfited, slain, and fled away.

Then they made great fires and lighted up torches and candles, because it was very dark.

Then the king came down from the little hill where he stood; and all that day till then his helmet came never off his head.

Then he went with all his battle to his son the Prince of Wales, and embraced him in his arms and kissed him, and said: "Fair son, God give you good perseverance; ye are my good son, ye have acquitted yourself nobly; ye are worthy to defend a realm." The prince bowed himself to the earth, honoring the king his father.

This night they thanked God for their good adventure, and made no boast thereof, for the king wished that no man should be proud or make boast, but every man humbly to thank God.

On the Sunday in the morning there was such a mist that a man could not see the breadth of an acre of land from him.

Then there departed from the host by the commandment of the king and marshals five hundred spears and two thousand archers, to see if they might find any Frenchmen gathered again together in any place.

The same morning the citizens of Rouen and of Beauvais issued out of their towns, not knowing of the discomfiture the day before.

They met with the Englishmen thinking that they had been Frenchmen, and when the Englishmen saw them they set on them freshly, and there was a sore battle; but at last the Frenchmen fled and kept none array.

There were slain in the ways and in hedges and bushes more than seven thousand, and if the day had been clear there had never a one escaped.

Soon after, another company of Frenchmen were met by the Englishmen—the Archbishop of Rouen and the great prior of France—who also knew nothing of the discomfiture of the day before; for they heard that the French King was to fight that same Sunday, and they were going thitherward.

When they met with the Englishmen there was a great battle, for they were a great number; but they

could not endure against the Englishmen, and they were nigh all slain; few escaped; the two lords were slain.

This morning the Englishmen met with divers Frenchmen that had lost their way on the Saturday and had lain all night in the fields, and who knew not where the king was, nor the captains.

They were all slain, as many as were met with; and it was said to me that of the citizens and men afoot of the cities and good towns of France there were slain four times as many as were slain on Saturday in the great battle.

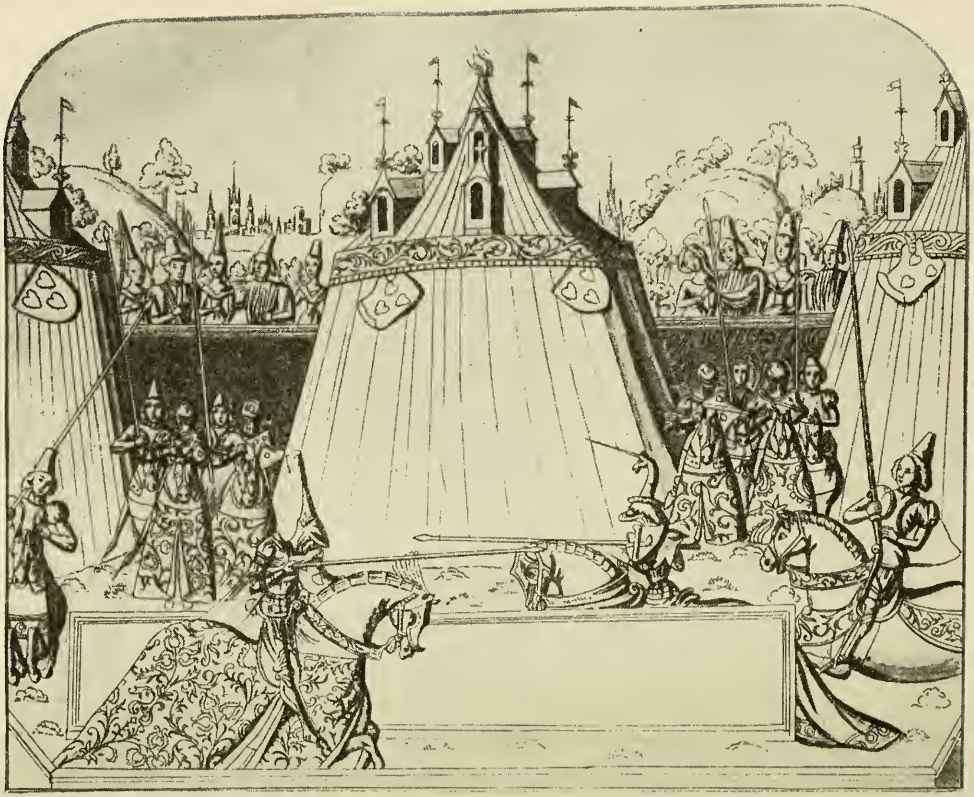
CHAPTER XXXII

HOW THE NEXT DAY AFTER THE BATTLE OF CRESSY THEY THAT WERE DEAD WERE COUNTED BY THE ENGLISHMEN

The same Sunday, as the King of England came from mass, some that had been sent forth returned, and told the king what they had seen and done, and said, "Sir, we think surely there is now no more appearance of any of our enemies."

Then the king sent to search how many were slain, and who they were. Sir Raynold Cobham and Sir Richard Stafford, with three heralds, went to search the field and country.

They visited all them that were slain, and rode all day in the fields, and returned again to the host as the king was going to supper.



Tournament at Calais by French knights.

They made a true report of that they had seen, and said how there were eleven great princes dead, fourscore banners, twelve hundred knights, and more than fifteen thousand other.*

The Englishmen kept still their field all that night. On the Monday in the morning the king prepared to depart.

The king caused the dead bodies of the great lords to be taken up and buried in holy ground, and made a proclamation in the country to grant a truce for three days, to the intent that the peasants of the country might search the field of Cressy to bury the dead bodies.

Then the king went forth, and on the Wednesday the king came before the strong town of Calais.

CHAPTER XXXIII

HOW THE KING OF ENGLAND LAID SIEGE TO CALAIS, AND HOW ALL THE POOR PEOPLE WERE PUT OUT OF THE TOWN

In the town of Calais the captain was a knight called Sir John de Vienne, and with him were divers other knights and squires.

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* The French loss was equal to the whole number of Englishmen in the battle. There were slain nine princes, eighty lords displaying their own banners, twelve hundred knights, fifteen hundred men at arms, and thirty thousand footmen.

When the King of England was come before Calais, he laid his siege and ordered forts to be built between the town and the river.

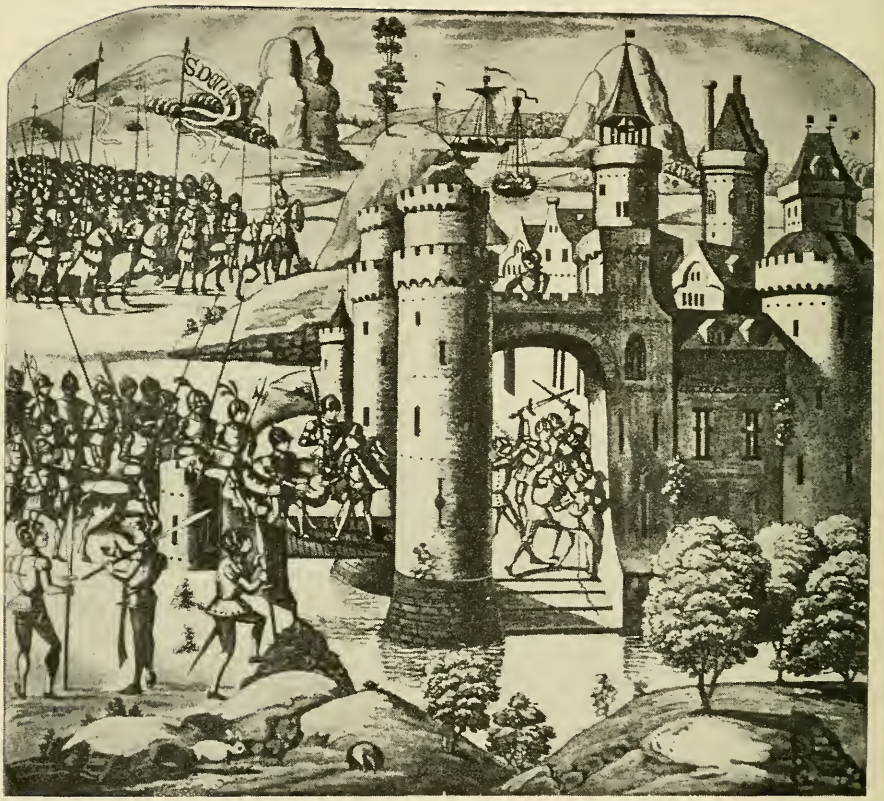
He caused carpenters to make houses and lodgings of great timber, and set the houses in streets, and covered them with reed and broom, so that it was like a little town.

And there was everything to sell, and a market place was kept every Tuesday and Saturday for flesh and fish, shops for cloth, for bread, wine, and all other things necessary; there they might buy what they list. The Englishmen made forays oftentimes into the country, even as far as Boulogne. They brought into their host great booty.

The king would not assault the town of Calais, for he thought it but a lost labor. He spared his people and his artillery, and said that he would famish them in the town by a long siege, unless the French King should come and raise his siege perforce.

When the captain of Calais saw the manner and the order of the Englishmen, then he forced all the poor and common people to issue out of the town, and on a Wednesday there issued out, of men, women, and children, more than seventeen hundred; and as they passed through the host they were asked why they departed, and they answered and said, because they had nothing to live on.

Then the king did them that grace that he suffered them to pass through his host without danger, and gave them meat and drink, and to every person



Battle of Calais between the English and French.

he gave two pence sterling in alms, for the which many of them prayed for the king's prosperity.*

CHAPTER XXXIV

HOW THE TOWN OF CALAIS WAS GIVEN UP TO THE KING OF ENGLAND (AUGUST 4, 1347) †

THE siege before Calais endured long, nigh to a year's time, and many things happened in the meanwhile, of which I can not write the fourth part. When they within Calais saw that their succor failed them they were in great sorrow.

Then they desired their captain, Sir John of Vienne, that he should go to the walls of the town and make a sign to speak with some person of the English host. When the king heard thereof he sent thither Sir Walter of Manny and Sir Basset.

Then Sir John of Vienne said to them: "Sirs, ye are right valiant knights in deeds of arms, and ye know well how the king my master hath sent me and others to this town and commanded us to keep it for him in such wise that no damage may come to him; and we have done all that lieth in our power.

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* Two pence in those days would buy about as much food as forty or fifty cents in the United States to-day. The wages of a farm laborer, then, were only three pence a day.

† Calais was taken by the English in 1347, and held by them until 1558. All the other possessions of England in France were lost long before that time—in 1431.

"Now our succor hath failed us, and we are so sore strained that we have not enough to live upon, so that we must all die or else go mad for famine, unless the noble and gentle King of England will take mercy on us.

"We ask you to desire him to have pity on us and to let us go and depart, and let him take the town and castle and all the goods that are therein, which are in great abundance."

Then Sir Walter of Manny said: "Sir, we know somewhat of the intention of the king our master, for he hath told it unto us.

"Ye must surely know for truth that it is not his mind that ye nor they within the town should depart so, for it is his will that ye all should put yourselves at his disposal, to ransom all such that pleaseth him and to put to death such as he list.

"For they of Calais have worked so much against him, and have caused him to spend so much wealth, and lose so many of his men, that he is sore aggrieved against them."

Then the captain said: "Sir, this is too hard a matter to us. We are here within, humble knights and squires, who have truly served the king our master as well as ye would serve yours in like case.

"And we have endured much pain and unease; but we shall yet endure as much pain as ever knights did, rather than to consent that the poorest lad in the town should endure any more evil than the greatest of us all.

"Therefore, sir, we pray you that ye will go and

speak to the King of England and desire him to have pity upon us; for we trust to find in him so much gentleness that by the grace of God his purpose shall change."

Sir Walter of Manny and Sir Basset returned to the king and declared to him all that had been said. The king said he would have no other thing but that the French should yield them up simply to his pleasure.

Then Sir Walter said: "Sir, saving your displeasure, in this ye may be in the wrong, for ye shall give by this an evil example.

"If ye send any of us, your servants, into any fortress, we shall not be very glad to go, if ye put any of them in this town to death after they have surrendered; for in like wise others will deal with us, if the case should so befall." And these words other lords there present sustained and maintained.

Then the king said: "Sirs, I will not be alone against you all; therefore, Sir Walter of Manny, ye shall go and say to the captain that all the mercy that he shall find now in me is that they let six of the chief burgesses (*citizens*) of the town come out bareheaded, barefooted, and barelegged, and in their shirts, with halters about their necks, with the keys of the town and castle in their hands, and let the six yield themselves purely to my will, and the rest I will pardon."

Then Sir Walter returned and found Sir John of Vienne still on the wall, abiding for an answer. Then Sir Walter showed him all the grace that he could get of the king.

"Well," quoth Sir John, "sir, I ask you to tarry here a certain space (*time*), till I go into the town and tell this to the citizens of the town, who sent me hither."

Then Sir John went unto the market place and sounded the bell; then immediately the men and women assembled there.

Then the captain made a report of all that he had done, and said: "Sirs, it will be none otherwise; therefore now take advice and make a short answer."

Then all the people began to weep and to make such sorrow that even the hardest heart would have been filled with pity of them; the captain himself wept piteously.

At last the most rich burgess of all the town, called Eustace of Saint-Pierre, rose up and said openly: "Sirs, great and small, great misfortune it would be to let such people as are in this town die either by famine or otherwise when there is a means to save them. I think he that keeps them from such misfortune should have great merit in the eye of our Lord God.

"As for my part, I have so good trust in our Lord God, that if I die to save the rest I think God would pardon my sins; wherefore to save them I will be the first to put my life in jeopardy."

When he had thus said, every man honored him, and divers kneeled down at his feet with sore weeping and sore sighs. Then another honest burgess rose and said, "I will keep company with my familiar friend Eustace." He was called John d'Aire.

Then rose up Jaques of Wissant, who was rich in goods; he said also that he would hold company with his two cousins. In like wise so did Peter of Wissant his brother; and then rose two other, Jean de Fiennes and Andrieu d'André. They said they would do the same. Then they went and appareled them as the king desired.

Then the captain went with them to the gate: there was great lamentation made by men, women, and children at their departing: then the gate was opened, and he issued out with the six burgesses and closed the gate again, so that they were between the gate and the barriers.

Then he said to Sir Walter of Manny: "Sir, I deliver here to you, as captain of Calais, by the consent of all the people of the town, these six burgesses, and I swear to you truly that they be to-day the most honorable, rich, and most notable burgesses of all the town of Calais.

"Wherefore, gentle knight, I ask you pray the king to have mercy on them, that they die not."

Quoth Sir Walter, "I can not say what the king will do, but I shall do for them the best I can." Then the barriers were opened, the six burgesses went toward the king, and the captain entered again into the town.

When Sir Walter presented these burgesses to the king, they kneeled down and held up their hands, and said: "Gentle king, behold us here, we six, who were burgesses of Calais and great merchants; we have brought to you the keys of the town and of the castle, and we submit ourselves entirely to your will

and pleasure, to save the rest of the people of Calais, who have suffered great pain.

"Sir, we beseech you to have mercy and pity on us through your high nobleness." Then all the earls and barons and other that were there wept for pity.

The king looked fiercely on them, for greatly he hated the people of Calais for the damages and displeasures they had done him.

Then he commanded their heads to be stricken off. Then every man begged the king for mercy, but he would hear no man in that behalf.

Then Sir Walter of Manny said: "Ah, noble king, for God's sake hold back your anger.

"Ye have the name of sovereign nobleness; therefore now do nothing to blemish your renown, nor to give cause to the folk to speak evil of you.

"Every man will declare it great cruelty to put to death such honest persons, who by their own wills have put themselves at your mercy to save their companions."

Then the king ground his teeth and commanded to send for the hangman, and said: "They of Calais have caused many of my men to be slain, wherefore these citizens shall die."

Then the queen kneeled down and, sore weeping, said: "Ah, gentle Sir, since I passed the sea in great peril, I have asked no favor from you; therefore now I humbly ask you, for the honor of the Son of the Virgin Mary and for the love of me, that ye will have mercy upon these six burgesses."

The king looked on the queen and stood still in

Queen Philippa begging for the lives of the citizens of Calais.

thought a space, and then said: "Ah, dame, I would ye had been now in some other place; ye make such request to me that I can not deny you. Wherefore I give them to you, to do your pleasure with them."

Then the queen caused them to be brought into her rooms, and had the halters taken from their necks, and caused them to be new clothed, and gave them their dinner at their leisure; and then she gave each of them six nobles (*a coin*), and caused them to be brought out of the host in safeguard and set at liberty.

CHAPTER XXXV

HOW THE KING OF ENGLAND REPEOPLED THE TOWN OF CALAIS WITH ENGLISHMEN

Thus the strong town of Calais was given up to King Edward of England the year of our Lord God MCCCXLVI, in the month of August.

The King of England called to him Sir Walter of Manny and his two marshals, the Earl of Warwick and the Earl of Stafford, and said to them: "Sirs, take here the keys of the town and castle of Calais; go and take possession there, and put in prison all the knights that are there; and all other soldiers that came thither simply to win their living, banish them from the town, and also all other men, women, and children, for I would repeople again the town with pure Englishmen."

So these three lords took possession of Calais, and did put certain knights in prison.

Then they caused the soldiers to bring all their harness (*armor*) into a place appointed, and to lay it all in a heap in the market place of Calais.

Then they made all manner of people leave the town, and kept there no persons except a priest and two other ancient personages, such as knew the customs, laws, and ordinances of the town.

They prepared the castle to lodge the king and queen, and prepared other houses for the king's company.

Then the king mounted on his horse and entered into the town with trumpets, and there the king remained till after the birth of his fair daughter, the Princess Margaret.

The king gave to Sir Walter of Manny divers fair houses within the town, and others to the Earl of Stafford, to the Lord of Cobham, and to other lords.

The king's mind was, when he came into England, to send out of London thirty-six good citizens to Calais to dwell there, and to do so much that the town might be peopled with pure Englishmen; which intent the king fulfilled.

Then the new town and fortress that was without the town was pulled down, and the castle that stood on the haven (*harbor*) razed to the ground, and the great timber and stones brought into the town.

Then the king ordained men to keep the gates, walls, and barriers, and amended all things within the town; and the prisoners were sent into England

and were half a year at London, after which time they were ransomed.

Methinks it was great pity of the burgesses and other men of the town of Calais, and women and children, when they were forced to forsake their houses, heritages, and goods, and to bear away nothing; and they had no recompense from the French King, for whose sake they lost all.

Then the King of England and the queen returned into England, and the king sent from London thirty-six citizens to Calais, who were rich and wise, and their wives and children, and daily he sent more, for the king granted there such liberties and franchises that men were glad to go and dwell there. The same time was brought to London Sir Charles de Blois, who called himself Duke of Brittany; he was put in prison in the Tower of London with the King of the Scots and the Earl of Moray.

PART V

THE WARS OF EDWARD THE BLACK PRINCE IN FRANCE, AND THE VICTORY OF POITIERS (*1356*)

CHAPTER XXXVI

OF THE GREAT HOST THAT THE FRENCH KING BROUGHT TO THE BATTLE OF POITIERS (SEPTEMBER, 1356)

After the taking of the castle of Romorantin and of them that were therein, the Prince of Wales (*who was now twenty-six years of age*) and his company rode as they did before, destroying the country, approaching to Anjou and to Touraine.

The French King heard that the prince was in Touraine, and how he was returning by Poitou.

The Englishmen were always watched by certain expert knights of France, who made report to the king what the Englishmen were doing.

Then the King of France came to Touraine, and his men passed the river of Loire, some at the bridge of Orleans, and some at Tours, and wherever they could.

They were in number about twenty thousand men

Edward the Black Prince.

of arms beside others; there were twenty-six dukes and earls, and more than six score banners, and the four sons of the king, who were but young.

The same season, Pope Innocent the Sixth sent the Lord Bertrand, Cardinal of Perigord,* into France, to treat for a peace between the French King and all his enemies.

Then the Cardinal of Perigord went to Tours, and there he heard how the French King hasted to find the Englishmen; then he rode to Poitiers, for he heard how both the hosts were going thither.

The French King heard how the Prince of Wales was hastening greatly to return, and the king feared that he should escape him, and so he departed from Touraine, with all his company, and passed the river thinking that the Englishmen were before him, but they were not.

Howbeit they pursued after him and there passed the bridge that day more than three score thousand horses, and divers other passed at other places, and ever as they passed they took the way to Poitiers.

On the other side the Prince of Wales knew not truly where the Frenchmen were; but he supposed that they were not far off, for his host could find no more forage, whereby they had great lack of victual, and some of them repented that they had destroyed so much as they had done when they were formerly in Touraine.

The same Saturday the Prince of Wales sent be-

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* Pā-rē-gōr′.

fore him certain scouts to see and to hear where the Frenchmen were. They were in number three score men of arms well horsed, and with them was the Lord Eustace d'Aubrecicourt * and the Lord John of Ghistelles,† and by chance the Englishmen and Frenchmen met together.

The Frenchmen soon knew they were their enemies; then in haste they put on their helmets and displayed their banners and came at a great pace toward the Englishmen; they were in number two hundred men of arms.

When the Englishmen saw that they were so great a number, then they determined to fly and let the Frenchmen chase them, for they knew well the Prince of Wales with his host was not far behind. Then they turned their horses, and the Frenchmen pursued after them crying their war cries and making great noise.

And as they chased, they came on the prince's battle. The Lord de Coucy ‡ with his banner went so far forward that he was under the prince's banner. There was a sore battle, and the knight fought valiantly; howbeit, he was there taken, and all the other lords with him taken or slain, save a few that escaped.

And by the prisoners the prince knew that the French King had gone in front of them, and that he could in no way depart without being fought with. Then he assembled together all his men, and com-

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* O-brā′-sē-kōr. † Gē-stels. ‡ Kō-sē′.

manded that no man should go in front of the marshals' banners.

Thus the prince rode that Saturday from the morning till it was nearly night, so that he came within two leagues of Poitiers.

Then the prince sent forth certain knights to see what the Frenchmen were doing. These knights departed with two hundred men of arms well horsed; they rode so far that they saw the great battle of the French King's; they saw all the fields covered with men of arms.

These Englishmen could not hold their hands from attacking the rear of the French host, and cast down many to the earth and took divers prisoners, so that the host began to stir, and tidings thereof came to the French King as he was entering into the city of Poitiers.

The English scouts returned again to the prince, and told him all that they saw and knew, and said that the French host was a great number of people. "Well," said the prince, "in the name of God let us now study how we shall fight with them to our advantage."

That night the Englishmen lodged in a strong place among hedges, vines, and bushes, and their host was well guarded, and so was the French host.

CHAPTER XXXVII

OF THE ORDER OF THE FRENCHMEN BEFORE THE BATTLE OF POITIERS

On the Sunday in the morning the French King, who had great desire to fight with the Englishmen, heard mass in his pavilion (*tent*), and his four sons with him.

After mass there came to him the Duke of Orleans, the Duke of Bourbon, the Duke of Athens, Constable of France, and divers other great barons of France; all these with the king counseled together.

Then finally it was ordered that all should move into the field, and every lord display his banner, and set forth in the name of God and Saint-Denis. Then trumpets blew through the host, and every man mounted on horseback and went into the field, where they saw the king's banner wave with the wind.

There might have been seen great splendor of fair harness (*armor*), and rich banners and pennons; for there was all the flower of France. No man durst abide at home for he would have been shamed forever.

Then it was ordered, by the advice of the marshals, that the army should be ranged in three battles, and in each division there were sixteen thousand men of arms.

The first battle the Duke of Orleans was to govern, with thirty-six banners and twice as many pen-

nons; the second the Duke of Normandy and his two brethren, the Lord Louis and the Lord John*; the third the king himself.

While these battles were forming, the king called to him certain knights, and said to them: "Sirs, ride on before to see the dealing of the Englishmen, and consider well their number, and by what means we may fight with them—whether afoot or ahorseback."

These knights rode forth, and the king was on a white courser, and said aloud to his men: "Sirs, among yourselves, when ye are at Paris, or at Orleans, then ye do threaten the Englishmen and desire to be fighting against them. Now I shall show them to you; now show forth the evil will that ye bear them, and revenge the displeasures and damages that they have done you, for without doubt we shall fight with them." Such as heard him said: "Sir, in God's name so be it; that would we do gladly."

Therewith the knights returned again to the king, who demanded of them tidings. Then one of them answered for all, and said: "Sir, we have seen the Englishmen; by estimation they are two thousand men of arms and four thousand archers, and fifteen hundred others.

"Howbeit, they have chosen their position wisely, and have taken post along the road, which is fortified strongly with hedges and thickets, and they have beset this hedge on one side and on the other with their archers, so that one can not enter nor ride along their

* Sons of the King of France.

road except in front of the archers, and that way must he go who purposes to fight with them.

"In this hedge there is but one entry and one issue, where perhaps four men of arms might ride afront. At the end of this hedge, among vines and thorn bushes where no man can go nor ride, are their men of arms all afoot, and they have set in front of them their archers, whom it would not be easy to discomfit (*defeat*)."

"Well," said the king, "what will ye then counsel us to do?" Sir Eustace said: "Sir, let us all be afoot, except three hundred men of arms well horsed, of the best in your host and most hardy, so that these may somewhat break and open the archers, and then your battles must follow on quickly afoot, and so fight with their men of arms hand to hand. This is the best advice that I can give you; if any man think any other way better, let him speak."

The king said: "Thus shall it be done." Then the two marshals rode from battle to battle and chose out three hundred knights and squires of the most expert men of arms of all the host, every man well armed and horsed.

Also it was ordered that the divisions of Germans should remain on horseback to aid the marshals, if need were.

CHAPTER XXXVIII

HOW THE CARDINAL OF PERIGORD* ENDEAVORED TO MAKE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRENCH KING AND THE PRINCE OF WALES BEFORE THE BATTLE OF POITIERS

When the French King's battles were ordered and every lord under his banner among his own men, then it was commanded that every man should cut his spear to five foot long, and that every man should put off his spurs. (*They intended to fight on foot.*)

Thus, as they were ready to approach, the Cardinal of Perigord came in great haste to the King of France. He kneeled down to the king, and said: "Sir, ye have here all the flower of your realm against a handful of people, for so the Englishmen are, compared with your company; and, Sir, if ye have them yield to you without battle, it shall be more profitable and honorable to have them by that manner rather than to risk so noble chivalry as ye have here present. Sir, I require you, in the name of God, that I may ride to the Prince of Wales and show him what danger ye have him in."

The king said: "It pleaseth me well, but return again shortly." The cardinal departed and diligently he rode to the prince, who was among his men afoot;

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* Pronounced pā-rē-gōr'. It is written with an accent in French, Périgord.

then the cardinal alighted and came to the prince, who received him courteously.

Then the cardinal, after he had made his salutation, said: "Certainly, fair son, if you and your council weigh justly the puissance (*might*) of the French King, ye will suffer me to treat to make a peace between you, if I may."

The prince, who was young and lusty, said: "Sir, if my honor and that of my people are saved, I would gladly consent to any reasonable way." Then the cardinal said: "Sir, ye say well, and I shall bring you and the king to agreement if I can; for it would be a great pity if so many noblemen and others as are here in both parties should come together in battle."

Then the cardinal rode again to the King of France, and said: "Sir, ye need not to make any great haste to fight with your enemies, for they can not fly from you even though they would; wherefore, Sir, I require you to forbear for this day till to-morrow's sunrising."

The king was loath to agree thereto, for some of his council would not consent to it; but finally the cardinal showed such reasons that the king agreed to that delay.

That Sunday all the day the cardinal rode from one host to the other, trying to bring them to agreement; but the French King would not agree unless he might have four of the principalest of the Englishmen prisoners at his pleasure, and the prince and all the others to yield themselves simply; howbeit, there were many great offers made.

The King of France in council with his noblemen.

The Prince of Wales offered to return into the king's hands all that ever he had won in that campaign, towns and castles, and to release all prisoners that he or any of his men had taken in that season, and also to swear not to make war against the French King for seven year afterwards.

But the king and his council would none thereof; the uttermost that he would do was that the prince and a hundred of his knights should yield themselves into the king's prison, which the prince would in no wise agree unto.

In the meantime the cardinal rode between the hosts, hoping to do some good. Certain knights of France and of England both rode forth the same Sunday, because there was truce for that day, to coast along the hosts and to behold the dealing of their enemies.

So it fortuned that the Lord John Chandos rode the same day coasting the French host, and in like manner the Lord of Clermont* had ridden forth and viewed the state of the English host. As these two knights returned toward their hosts, they met together. Each of them bore the same device on his apparel—that is, a blue lady embroidered in a sunbeam (*the coat of arms*).

Then the Lord Clermont said: "Chandos, how long have ye taken on you to bear my device?" "Nay, ye bear mine," said Chandos, "for it is as well mine as yours." "I deny that," said Clermont, "but

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* Pronounced kler-môn'.

if it were not for the truce this day between us, I should show you incontinent (*on the instant*) that ye have no right to bear my device." "Ah, sir," said Chandos, "ye shall find me to-morrow ready to prove by feat of arms that it is as well mine as yours."

Then Clermont said: "Chandos, these be well the words of you Englishmen, for ye can devise nothing of new, but all that ye see is good and fair, and ye take the devices of others who have more wit than ye." So they departed without any more doing, and each of them returned to his host.

The Cardinal of Perigord could in no wise that Sunday make any agreement between the parties, and when it was near night he returned to Poitiers.

That night the Frenchmen took their ease; they had provisions enough, and the Englishmen lacked them sorely. They could get no forage, nor could they leave their place without danger of their enemies.

That Sunday the Englishmen made great dikes and hedges about their archers, to be the stronger; and on the Monday in the morning the prince and his company were ready appareled as they were before; and about the sunrising in like manner were the Frenchmen.

The same morning, betimes, the cardinal came again to the French host, and thought by his preaching to pacify the parties: but then the Frenchmen said to him: "Return whither ye will; bring hither no more words of treaty nor peace; if ye love yourself, depart shortly."

When the cardinal saw that he labored in vain he took leave of the King of France, and then he went to the Prince of Wales, and said: "Sir, do what ye can; there is no remedy but to abide the battle, for I can find no desire for agreement in the French King." Then the prince said: "The same is our intent and that of all our people; God help the right!"

So the cardinal returned to Poitiers. In his company there were certain knights and squires, men of arms, who were more favorable to the French King than to the prince; and when they saw that the parties would certainly fight, they stole away from their masters and went back to the French host.

The order of the Englishmen's battle array was told to the French King, except that they had ordered three hundred men ahorseback and as many archers ahorseback to coast under cover of the mountain and to strike into the battle of the Duke of Normandy, who was under the mountain afoot.

This plan they had newly made, and the Frenchmen knew not of it. The prince was with his battle down among the vines, and had closed in the weakest part with the carriages.

In the prince's company there were not above eight thousand men one and other, and the Frenchmen were sixty thousand fighting men, whereof there were more than three thousand knights.

CHAPTER XXXIX

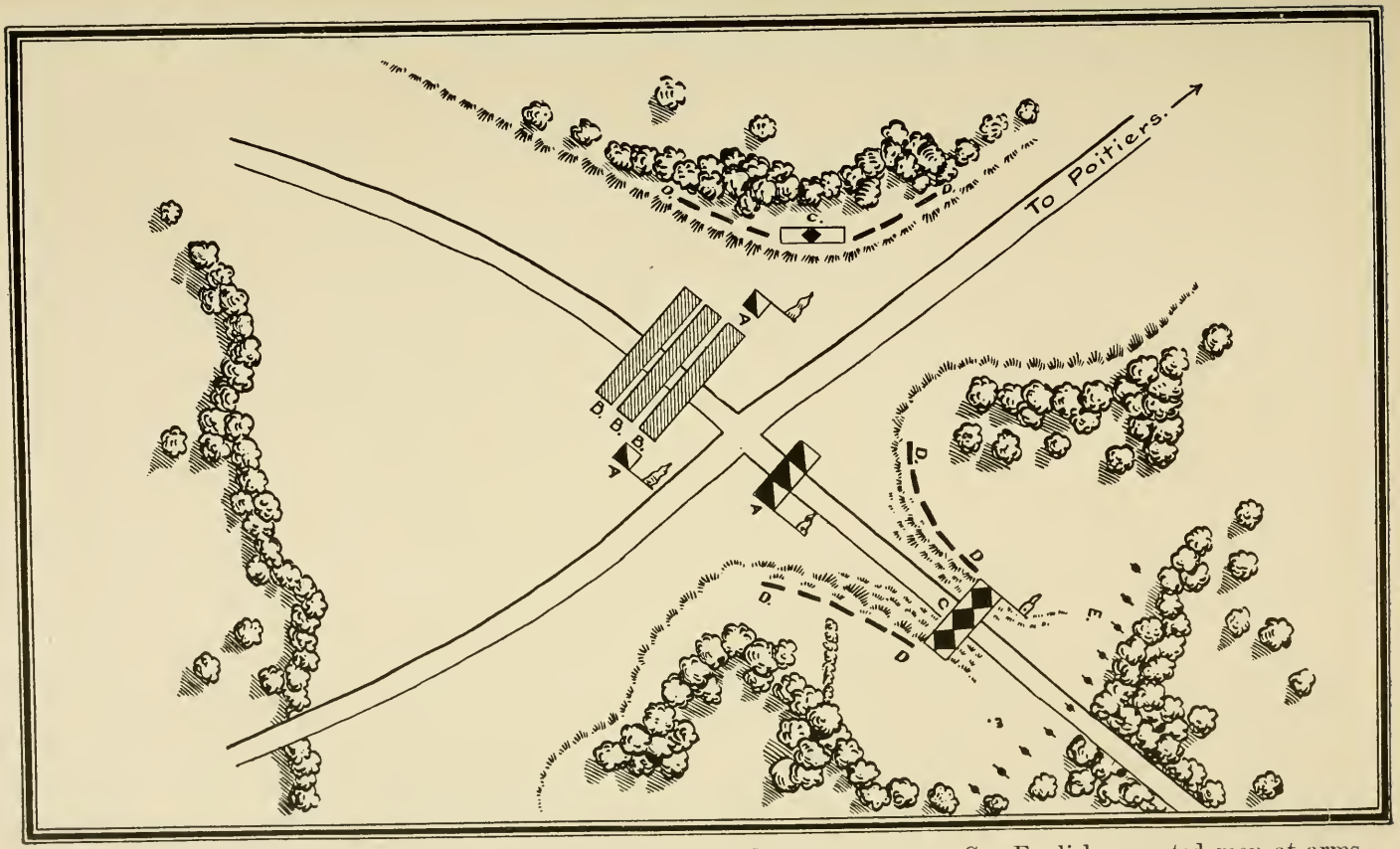
OF THE BATTLE OF POITIERS BETWEEN THE PRINCE OF WALES AND THE FRENCH KING (SEPTEMBER 19, 1356)

When the Prince of Wales saw that the cardinal was gone without any peace or truce making, and that there certainly would be a battle, he said then to his men: "Now, sirs, though we be but a small company compared to the number of our enemies, let us not be downcast for that reason. For the victory lieth not in the multitude of people, but God will send it.

"If it turn out that the day be ours, we shall be the most honored people of all the world; and if we die in our just quarrel, I have the king my father and brethren, and also ye have good friends and kinsmen; these shall revenge us.

"Therefore, sirs, for God's sake I require you do your duty this day; for if God be pleased and Saint George, this day ye shall see me a good knight." These words and others that the prince spake comforted all his people.

The Lord Sir John Chandos never went from the prince that day; nor also the Lord James Audley for a great while, but afterward when he saw that they would certainly fight, he said to the prince: "Sir, I have served truly my lord your father, and you also, and shall do so as long as I live. I say this because I made once a vow that the first battle that either the



A = French mounted men at arms. *B* = French dismounted men at arms. *C* = English mounted men at arms.
D = English archers. *E* = English wagons.

The battle of Poitiers (1356).

king your father or any of his children should be at, I would be the first setter-on and the best combatant, or else die in the attempt.

"Therefore I require your Grace, as reward for any service that ever I did to the king your father or to you, that you will give me leave to depart from you and to set myself in a place where I may accomplish my vow."

The prince accorded his desire, and said, "Sir James, God give you this day grace to be the best knight of all others," and so took him by the hand.

Then the knight departed from the prince and went to the foremost front of all the battles, only accompanied with four squires, who promised not to fail him.

Thus Sir James was in the front of the battle ready to fight with the battle of the marshals of France.

In like wise the Lord Eustace did his best to be one of the foremost to set on. When Sir James Audley began to set forward to his enemies, it fortuned to Sir Eustace as ye shall hear afterward.

Ye have heard before how the Germans in the French host were appointed to remain ahorseback. Sir Eustace, being ahorseback, laid his spear in the rest and ran into the French battle, and then a knight of Germany, called the Lord Louis of Recombes, rode against him, and they met so rudely that both knights fell to the earth.

The German was hurt in the shoulder, therefore he rose not so quickly as did Sir Eustace, who, when

he was up and had taken his breath, came to the other knight as he lay on the ground.

Then five other knights of Germany came on him all at once and bore him to the earth, and so perforce there he was taken prisoner and brought to the Earl of Nassau, who then took no heed of him ; and I can not say whether they sware him prisoner or no, but they tied him on to a cart and there let him stay.

Then the battle began on all sides, and the battles of the marshals of France approached. They entered ahorseback into the roadway where great hedges were on both sides full of archers.

As soon as the men of arms entered, the archers began to shoot on both sides, and did slay and hurt horses and knights, so that the horses when they felt the sharp arrows would in no wise go forward, but drew aback and flung about, and took on so fiercely that many of them fell on their masters, so that they could not rise again ; so that the marshals' battle could never come near the prince.

Certain knights and squires that were well horsed passed through the archers and tried to approach to the prince, but they could not. The Lord James Audley with his four squires was in the front of that battle, and there did marvels in fighting.

The battle of the marshals began to be disordered by reason of the shot of the archers with the aid of the men of arms, who came in among them and slew them and did what they list (*liked*).

Also on the French side the Lord John Clermont fought under his own banner as long as he could en-

dure; but there he was beaten down and could not be relieved nor ransomed, but was slain without mercy; some said it was because of the words that he had had the day before with Sir John Chandos.

So within a short space the marshals' battles were discomfited, for they fell one upon another and could not go forward. And the Frenchmen that were behind and could not get forward recoiled back and came on the battle of the Duke of Normandy, the which was great and thick in front, but anon it became open and thin behind.

For when they knew that the marshals' battle was discomfited they took their horses and departed, as they might best.

True to say, the English archers did their company that day great advantage; for they shot so thick that the Frenchmen knew not on what side to take heed, and little and little the Englishmen won ground away from them.

And when the men of arms of England saw that the marshals' battle was discomfited and that the duke's battle began to disorder and open, they leaped then on their horses, which they had ready by them; then they assembled together, and cried, "Saint George!" and the Lord Chandos said to the Prince of Wales: "Sir, take your horse and ride forth; this day is yours; God is this day on your side. Let us get to the French King's battle.

"I think verily by his valiantness he will not fly. I trust we shall capture him by the grace of God and Saint George, if we fight well; and, Sir,

I heard you say that this day I should see you a good knight."

The prince said, "Let us go forth; ye shall not see me this day return back," and said, "Advance, banner, in the name of God and of Saint George!"

The knight that bare the banner did his commandment. There was then a sore battle and a perilous, and many a man was overthrown; and he that was once down could not get afoot again without great succor and aid.

As the prince rode and entered in among his enemies he saw on his right hand in a little bush, lying dead, the Lord Robert of Duras,* and his banner by him, and ten or twelve of his men about him.

Then the prince said to two of his squires and to three archers: "Sirs, take the body of this knight on a targe and bear him to Poitiers, and present him from me to the Cardinal of Perigord, and say how I salute him by that token." And this was done.

The prince was informed that the cardinal's men were on the field against him, which was not right; for men of the Church that come and go for treaty of peace ought not to bear harness (*armor*) nor to fight for neither of the parties; they ought to be indifferent.

And because these men had done so, the prince was displeased with the cardinal, and therefore he sent unto him his nephew the Lord Robert of Duras dead.

And the chatelain of Amposte was taken, and the

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* Nephew of the cardinal. His name is pronounced dü-rä'.

prince would have had his head stricken off, because he belonged to the cardinal, but then the Lord Chandos said: "Sir, wait for a while; attend to greater matters; and perchance the cardinal will make such an excuse that ye shall be content."

Then the prince and his company attacked the battle of the Duke of Athens, Constable of France. There was many a man slain and cast to the earth. As the Frenchmen fought in companies, they cried, "Mountjoy! Saint-Denis!" and the Englishmen, "Saint George!"

Soon the Prince of Wales with his company met with the battle of the Germans, but in a short space they also were put to flight; the archers shot so wholly together that none durst come within the range of their arrows.* They slew many a man before he could be taken and ransomed.

When the Duke of Normandy's battle saw the Prince of Wales approach they thought to save themselves, and so the duke and the king's children, the Earl of Poitiers and the Earl of Touraine, who were right young, followed their governors from the field, and with them more than eight hundred spears, that struck no stroke that day.

The Duke of Orleans and a great company with him also departed from the field with clear hands (*without striking a blow*). There were many good knights and squires, though that their masters de-

* Froissart here and in many other places praises the bravery and skill of the English archers, whose arrows flew "wholly together," "like snow."

parted from the field, yet they had rather a-died than to have had any such reproach (*and so they remained to fight*).

Then the king's battle came on the Englishmen; there was a sore fight and many a great stroke given and received. The King of France and his youngest son met with the battle of the English marshals, the Earl of Warwick and the Earl of Suffolk, and with them certain knights of Gascony, fighting on the English side.

In the French party there were all the lords of France and also the Earl Douglas of Scotland, who fought for a time right valiantly, but when he saw the discomfiture, departed and saved himself, for in no wise would he be taken of the Englishmen; he had rather been there slain.

On the English part the Lord James Audley with the aid of his four squires fought always in the front of the battle; he was sore hurt in the body and in the face. As long as his breath served him he fought. At last, at the end of the battle, his four squires took and brought him out of the field and laid him under a hedge side to refresh him; and they took off his harness and bound up his wounds as well as they could.

On the French side, King John was that day a full right good knight; if the fourth part of his men had done their duty as well as he did, the victory would have been his by all likelihood.

Howbeit, they that stayed acquitted them as well as they might, so that they were all slain or taken;

few escaped of those that alighted down on the sand by the side of the king their lord.

There were slain and taken prisoners the chief nobles and princes of France; there were in the shock of that battle slain and taken more than two hundred knights.*

CHAPTER XL

OF TWO FRENCHMEN THAT FLED FROM THE BATTLE OF POITIERS, AND TWO ENGLISHMEN THAT FOLLOWED THEM

Among the battles, encounters, chases, and pursuits that were made that day in the field, it fortuned so to Sir Oudart † of Renty that he departed from the field because he saw the day was lost without recovery. He fled all alone and was gone out of the field a league, and an English knight pursued him, and ever cried to him and said, "Return again, sir knight; it is a shame to fly away thus."

Then the knight turned, and the English knight thought to have stricken him with his spear in the shield, but he failed, for Sir Oudart swerved aside from the stroke, but he failed not the English knight,

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* The French army at Poitiers was 60,000 strong, against about 8,000 English. The English had 2,000 men at arms, 4,000 archers, and about 1,500 light troops. It is reckoned that 8,000 French were slain in battle, 3,000 more in flight, and 2,000 taken prisoners.

† Pronounced ö-där'.

for he struck him such a stroke on the helm with his sword that he was stunned, and fell from his horse to the earth and lay still.

Then Sir Oudart alighted and came to him before he could rise, and said, "Yield you, rescue or no rescue, or else I shall slay you." The Englishman yielded and went with him, and afterward was ransomed.

Also it fortuned that another squire of Picardy called John de Hellenes* fled from the battle and met with his page, who delivered him a new fresh horse, whereon he rode away alone.

At the same time there was in the field the Lord Berkeley of England, a young lusty knight, and he all alone pursued the said John of Hellenes.

And when he had followed the space of a league, the said John turned again and laid his sword in the rest instead of a spear, and so came running toward the Lord Berkeley, who lifted up his sword to have stricken the squire; but when he saw the stroke come he turned from it, so that the Englishman lost his stroke; and John struck him, as he passed, on the arm, so that the Lord Berkeley's sword fell into the field.

When he saw his sword down he lighted suddenly off his horse and came to the place where his sword lay, and as he stooped down to take up his sword the French squire did pike his sword at him, and by chance struck him through both the thighs, so that the knight fell to the earth and could not help himself.

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* Pronounced hel-lēns'.

And John alighted off his horse and took the knight's sword that lay on the ground, and came to him and demanded if he would yield to him or not.

The knight then demanded his name. "Sir," said he, "I am called John of Hellenes; but what is your name?" "Certainly," said the knight, "my name is Thomas, and I am Lord of Berkeley, a fair castle on the river of Severn in the marches of Wales."

"Well, sir," quoth the squire, "then ye shall be my prisoner, and I shall bring you in safeguard, and I shall see that you shall be healed of your hurt." "Well," said the knight, "I am content to be your prisoner, for ye have by law of arms won me." There he sware to be his prisoner, rescue or no rescue.

Then the squire drew forth the sword out of the wound; he wrapped and bound the wound, and set him on his horse, and did get him remedy for his hurt; and when he was somewhat recovered, then he got him a litter and so brought him at his ease to his house in Picardy.

There he was more than a year till he was perfectly whole, and when he departed he paid for his ransom six thousand nobles;* and so this squire was made a knight by reason of the profit that he had of the Lord Berkeley.

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* Six thousand nobles, the ransom of the young Lord Berkeley, is equal to about $90,000 of our money. A noble was 6*s.* and 8*d.*, or $1.61; but money would then buy about ten times as much as now.

CHAPTER XLI

HOW KING JOHN OF FRANCE WAS TAKEN PRISONER AT THE BATTLE OF POITIERS

Oftentimes the adventures of love and of war are more marvelous than any man can think or wish. Truly this battle of Poitiers was right great and perilous, and many deeds of arms were done there which came not to knowledge.

The fighters on both sides endured much pain. King John with his own hands did that day marvels in arms; he had an axe (*a battle axe*) in his hands wherewith he defended himself and fought.

The Frenchmen were chased by the English even to the gates of Poitiers; there were many slain and beaten down, horse and man, for the people of Poitiers closed their gates and would suffer none to enter; wherefore in the street before the gate was horrible murder, men hurt and beaten down.

The Frenchmen yielded themselves prisoners as soon as an Englishman came in sight. There were divers English archers that had four, five, or six prisoners.

So many Englishmen and Gascons * came to that part that perforce they made their way into the king's battle, so that the Frenchmen were so mingled among their enemies that sometime there were five men

* Subjects and allies of the English; see the map, page 168.

upon one gentleman. There was slain Sir Geoffrey of Charny with the king's banner in his hands.

Then there was a great struggle to take the king, and such as knew him cried, "Sir, yield you, or else ye are but dead." There was a knight of Saint-Omer's, retained in wages with the King of England, called Sir Denis Morbeke, who had served the Englishmen five years before, because in his youth he had been banished from the realm of France for a murder that he did at Saint-Omer's.

It happened so well for him that he was next to the French King when they were about to take him; he stepped forth into the press, and by strength of his body and arms he came to the French King and said in good French, "Sir, yield you."

The king looked at the knight, and said: "To whom shall I yield me? Where is my cousin, the Prince of Wales? If I might see him I would speak with him."

Denis answered and said: "Sir, he is not here; but yield you to me and I will bring you to him." "Who be you?" quoth the king.

"Sir," quoth he, "I am Denis of Morbeke, a knight of Artois; but I serve the King of England, because I am banished the realm of France and I have forfeited all that I had there."

Then the king gave him his right gauntlet, saying, "I yield me to you." There was a great press about the king, for every man was saying, "I have taken him," so that the king could not go forward with his young son the Lord Philip because of the press.

The Prince of Wales, who was courageous and cruel as a lion, took that day great pleasure to fight and to chase his enemies. The Lord John Chandos, who was with him all that day, never left him nor never took heed of taking any prisoner.

Then at the end of the battle he said to the prince: "Sir, it were good that you rested here, and set your banner ahigh in this bush, so that your people may draw hither, for they are much dispersed, nor can I see any more banners or pennons of the French party; wherefore, Sir, rest and refresh you."

Then the prince's banner was set up ahigh on a bush, and trumpets and clarions began to sound. Then the prince took off his bassenet (*helmet*), and the knights of his household were ready about him, and a red pavilion was put up, and then drink was brought forth to the prince and for such lords as were about him.

And their numbers still increased as they came from the chase; there they tarried and their prisoners with them.

And when the two marshals were come to the prince, he demanded of them if they knew any tidings of the French King.

They answered and said: "Sir, we think verily he is either dead or taken, for he is not gone out of the battles."

Then the prince said to the Earl of Warwick and to Sir Raynold Cobham: "Sirs, I require you go forth and see what ye can know, that at your return ye may show me the truth."

These two lords took their horses and departed from the prince and rode up a little hill to look about them; then they perceived a flock of men of arms coming together right wearily.

There was the French King afoot in great peril, for Englishmen and Gascons were his masters; they had taken him from Sir Denis Morbeke perforce, and the strongest said, "I have taken him." "Nay," quoth another, "I have taken him." So they strove which should have him.

Then the French King, to avoid that peril, said: "Sirs, strive not: lead me courteously, and my son, to my cousin the Prince of Wales, and strive not for my taking, for I am so great a lord that my ransom will make you all rich."

The king's words somewhat appeased them; howbeit, ever as they went they made a riot, and brawled for the taking of the king.

When the two foresaid lords saw and heard that noise and strife among them, they came to them and said: "Sirs, what is the matter that ye strive for?" "Sirs," said one of them, "it is for the French King, who is here taken prisoner, and there are more than ten knights and squires that maintain that they have taken him and his son."

Then the two lords entered into the press, and caused every man to draw aback, and commanded them in the prince's name, on pain of their heads, to make no more noise, nor to approach the king any nearer unless they were commanded so to do.

Then every man gave room to the lords, and they

alighted and did their reverence to the king, and so brought him and his son in peace to the Prince of Wales.

CHAPTER XLII

OF THE GIFT THAT THE PRINCE OF WALES GAVE TO THE LORD AUDLEY AFTER THE BATTLE OF POITIERS

As soon as the Earl of Warwick and the Lord Cobham were departed from the prince, as ye have heard before, then the prince asked of the knights that were about him for the Lord Audley, if any knew anything of him.

Some knights that were there answered and said: "Sir, he is sore hurt, and lieth in a litter here beside."

"By my faith," said the prince, "of his hurts I am right sorry; go and know if he may be brought hither, or else I will go and see him there where he is."

Then two knights came to the Lord Audley, and said: "Sir, the prince desireth greatly to see you; either you must go to him, or else he will come to you." "Ah, sir," said the knight, "I thank the prince when he thinketh on so humble a knight as I am."

Then he called eight of his servants, and caused them to bear him in his litter to the place where the prince was.

Then the prince took him in his arms and kissed him, and said: "Sir James, I ought greatly to honor you, for by your valiance ye have this day achieved renown above us all, and ye are reputed for the most valiant of all."

"Ah, Sir," said the knight, "ye say as it pleaseth you; I would it were so. And if I have this day gone in the front of the battle to serve you, and to accomplish the vow that I made, it ought not to be counted as any especial bravery in me."

"Sir James," said the prince, "I and all ours consider you in this day's battle the best among us; and with the intent to furnish you better to follow the wars, I retain you forever to be my knight, with five hundred marks of yearly revenues."

"Sir," said the knight, "God grant me to deserve the great goodness that ye show me." And so he took his leave of the prince, for he was right feeble, and his servants brought him to his lodging.

And as soon as he was gone the Earl of Warwick and the Lord Cobham returned to the prince, and presented to him the French King. The prince made lowly reverence to the king, and caused wine and spices to be brought forth, and himself served the king.

CHAPTER XLIII

HOW THE ENGLISHMEN WON GREATLY AT THE BATTLE OF POITIERS

Thus this battle was lost, as ye have heard, the which was in the fields some two leagues from Poitiers, the twenty-second day of September, the year of our Lord MCCCLVI.

It began in the morning and ended at noon, but then all the Englishmen were not returned from the chase; therefore the prince's banner stood on a bush to draw all his men together, but it was nigh night before all came from the chase.

And as it was reported, there was slain all the flower of France; and there were taken with the king and the Lord Philip his son, seventeen earls, besides barons, knights, and squires; and slain some five or six thousand of one and other.

When every man had come from the chase they had twice as many prisoners as they themselves were in number. Then it was counseled among them, because of the great expense of keeping so many, that they should put many of them to ransom incontinent (*immediately*); and so they did.

The prisoners found the Englishmen and Gascons right courteous; there were many that day put to ransom, and let go only on their promise of faith and truth to return again, between that time and Christmas, to Bordeaux * with their ransoms.

* Bordeaux was then an English town. See the map, page 168.

Then that night they lay in the field where the battle had been. Some unarmed them, but not all; but they unarmed all their prisoners, and every man made good cheer to his prisoner; for that day whosoever took any prisoner, the prisoner was his to ransom him at his pleasure.

All such as were there with the prince were made rich with honor and goods, as well by ransoming of prisoners as by winning of gold, silver, plate, jewels, that were there found; for the Frenchmen came thither richly provided,* thinking that the day would be theirs.

CHAPTER XLIV

HOW THE LORD JAMES AUDLEY GAVE TO HIS FOUR SQUIRES THE REVENUES THAT THE PRINCE HAD GIVEN HIM

When Sir James Audley was brought to his lodging, then he sent for Sir Peter Audley, his brother, and for other lords of his family, and then he called before him his four squires, that had served him that day well and truly.

Then he said to the said lords: "Sirs, it hath pleased my lord the prince to give me five hundred marks of revenues yearly, for which gift I have done him but small service.

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* The booty captured from the French army was immense, and made every English soldier rich.

"Sirs, behold here these four squires, who have always served me truly, and specially so this day. All the honor that I have is by their valiantness.

"Wherefore I will reward them. I give and resign into their hands the gift that my lord the prince hath given me, to them and to their heirs forever, in like manner as it was given me. I clearly disinherit me thereof, and inherit them."

The lords and others that were there, every man looked at the others, and they said among themselves: "It cometh of a great nobleness to give this gift."

They answered him with one voice: "Sir, be it as God will; we shall bear witness in this behalf wheresoever we may be."

Then they departed from him, and some of them went to the prince, who was to give the King of France a supper of his own provisions; for the French had brought great abundance with them, and provisions had failed among the English; for some of them had no bread during three days.

CHAPTER XLV

HOW THE PRINCE MADE A SUPPER FOR THE FRENCH KING THE SAME DAY OF THE BATTLE

This same day of the battle, at night, the Prince of Wales made a supper in his lodging for the French King and for the most part of the great lords that were prisoners.

The prince made the king and his son, the Lord James of Bourbon, the Lord John d'Artois, and five other great nobles, sit all at one board, and other lords, knights, and squires at other tables.

And always the prince served the king as humbly as he could, and would not sit at the king's board, for he said he was not sufficient to sit at the table with so great a prince as the king was.

But then he said to the king: "Sir, for God's sake, do not be heavy hearted, though God this day did not consent to follow your will; for, Sir, surely the king my father shall bear you as much honor and friendship as he may do, and shall agree with you so reasonably that ye shall be friends together ever after.

"And, Sir, methink ye ought to rejoice, though fortune be not as ye would have had it, for this day ye have won high renown, and have surpassed this day in valiantness all others of your party. Sir, I say not this to mock you, for all those of our party, who saw every man's deeds, are plainly agreed to give you the prize and chaplet."

Therewith the Frenchmen began to murmur, and said among themselves that the prince had spoken nobly, and that he would prove a noble man, if God should grant him life and if his good fortune should continue.

CHAPTER XLVI

HOW THE PRINCE OF WALES RETURNED TO BORDEAUX AFTER THE BATTLE OF POITIERS

When supper was done every man went to his lodging with his prisoners. The same night they put many to ransom, and believed them on their faiths and promises and ransomed them easily, for they said they would set no knight's ransom so high that he might not pay it readily.

The next day, when they had heard mass and taken some repast and everything was packed and ready, then they took their horses and rode toward Poitiers.

When the Lord of Roye knew that the Englishmen were so near coming to the city, he caused every man to be armed and every man to go to defend the walls, towers, and gates; and the Englishmen passed by without attacking, for they were so laden with gold, silver, and prisoners, that in their returning they assaulted no fortress.

They thought it a great deed to bring the French King, with their other prisoners and the riches that they had won, in safeguard to Bordeaux.

They rode but short journeys because of their prisoners and great carriages that they had; they rode in a day no more than four or five leagues, and rode close together in good array.

But the marshals rode ever before with five hundred men of arms to open the passages that the prince

must pass; but they found no encounters, for all the country was so full of fright that every man retired to the fortresses.

As the prince rode, some one told him how the Lord Audley had given to his four squires the gift of five hundred marks that he had given unto him.

Then the prince sent for him, and he was brought in his litter to the prince, who received him courteously, and said: "Sir James, we have knowledge that the revenues that we gave you, as soon as ye came to your lodging, you gave the same to four squires; we would know why ye did so, and whether the gift was agreeable to you or not."

"Sir," said the knight, "it is true that I have given it to them, and I shall show you why I did so. These four squires here present have for many years served me well and truly in many great businesses, and, Sir, in this last battle they served me in such a fashion that, if they had never done anything else, I was bound to reward them, and before that day they had never anything of me in reward.

"Sir, I am but a single man; but by the aid and comfort of them I took on me to accomplish my vow made long before. I had been killed in the battle if they had not succored me.

"Wherefore, Sir, when I considered the love that they bore unto me, I had not been courteous if I had not rewarded them.

"Sir, if I have done this without your permission, I ask you to pardon me, for, Sir, both I and my squires will always serve you as well as ever we did."

Then the prince said: "Sir James, for anything that ye have done I can not blame you, but I can thank you for it instead. And for the valiantness of these squires, whom ye praise so much, I agree that they shall keep your gift. I mean to give to you six hundred marks more, just as ye had the other."

Thus the prince and his company passed through the country without damage, and crossed the river of Gironde and arrived in the good city of Bordeaux.

It can not be recorded how great a feast the people of the city made for the prince, and how honorably they were there received.

The Prince of Wales brought the French King into the abbey of Saint Andrew's, and there they lodged both, the king in one part and the prince in the other.

The prince bought of the lords, knights, and squires of Gascony the most part of the earls of the realm of France, such as were prisoners, and paid ready money for them.*

There were divers questions between the knights and squires of Gascony as to who took the French King. A squire of Gascony, called Bernard, said how he had a right to him; there were many words before the prince and other lords that were there, and the prince caused the matter to rest till they came into England and ordered that no declaration

* The Gascon knights had made these French earls prisoners and were entitled to put them to ransom; the Prince of Wales paid the ransoms and the Frenchmen became *his* prisoners from that time.

should be made except before the King of England, his father.

But the French King himself sustained the claims of Denis Morbeke, and the prince therefore secretly delivered to the said Sir Denis two thousand nobles to maintain his state.

Soon after the prince came to Bordeaux the Cardinal of Perigord came thither, who was sent from the Pope in legation, as it was said.

He was there more than fifteen days before the prince would speak with him because some of his men had fought against the prince in the battle of Poitiers.

The prince believed that the cardinal sent them thither, but the cardinal showed such good reasons to the prince that he was content to hear him speak.

And when he was before the prince he excused himself so wisely that the prince and his council held him excused, and so he fell again into the prince's good grace and redeemed out his men by reasonable ransoms. Then the cardinal began to treat for the deliverance of the French King, but I pass it over briefly because nothing came of it.

Thus the prince, the Gascons, and Englishmen tarried still at Bordeaux till it was Lent, in great mirth and revel, and spent foolishly the gold and silver that they had won.

In England there was great joy when they heard tidings of the battle of Poitiers, of the discomfiting of the Frenchmen and the taking of the king.

Great solemnities were made in all churches, and

great fires and rejoicings throughout all England. The knights and squires, such as were come home from that journey, were much made of and praised more than others.

CHAPTER XLVII

HOW THE PRINCE OF WALES CONVEYED THE FRENCH KING FROM BORDEAUX TO ENGLAND

The same winter the Prince of Wales and such Englishmen as were with him at Bordeaux prepared ships to convey the French King and his son and all other prisoners into England. And when the time of his departure approached, then he commanded the Lord d'Albret and others of his allies to keep the country there till he should return again.

Then he took the sea, and certain lords of Gascony with him.

The French King was in a vessel by himself, to be the more at his ease, accompanied with men of arms and archers. They were on the sea eleven days, and on the twelfth day they arrived at Sandwich.

Then they issued out of their ship and tarried there to refresh them, and on the third day they rode to Canterbury. When the King of England (*Edward the Third*) knew of their coming, he commanded the people of London to prepare the city to receive the French King.

The French King rode through London on a white

Hunting with hawks.

(From a manuscript of the fourteenth century.)

courser well appareled, and the prince on a little black horse near him. Thus he was conveyed along the city, till he came to the Savoy (*a palace*), the which house belonged to the Duke of Lancaster.

There the French King kept his house a long season, and thither came to see him the king and queen oftentimes, and made him great feast and cheer.

Soon after the French King was removed to the Castle of Windsor, with all his household, and went ahunting and ahawking at his pleasure.*

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* The King of France, John the Second, was kept a prisoner in England till he died in London in 1350. He was succeeded by his son, Charles the Fifth.

PART VI

THE BATTLE OF OTTERBURN (CHEVY CHASE) BETWEEN THE SCOTS AND THEM OF ENGLAND (1388)

CHAPTER XLVIII

HOW THE EARL DOUGLAS WON THE PENNON OF SIR HENRY PERCY AT THE BARRIERS BEFORE NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, AND HOW SIR HENRY PERCY FOLLOWED THE SCOTS TO CONQUER AGAIN THE PENNON THAT WAS LOST AT THE SCRIMMISH

THE Scottish Earls of Douglas, of Moray, of March and Dunbar departed from the great host, and took their way thinking to pass the river and to enter into the bishopric of Durham, and to ride to the town and then to return, burning the country and exiling the people, and so to come to Newcastle and to lodge there in the town in spite of all the Englishmen.

And as they determined so they did try to do, for they rode fast and secretly without doing any pillage by the way or assaulting any castle, tower, or house, but so came into the Lord Percy's land and passed the river of Tyne without any hindrance, three leagues above Newcastle, and at last entered into

the bishopric of Durham, where they found a good country.

Then they began to make war, to slay people, and to burn villages, and to do many sore displeasures.

At that time the Earl of Northumberland and the other knights of that country knew nothing of their coming.

When tidings came to Newcastle and to Durham that the Scots were abroad, as they might well see by the fires and smoke in the country, the earl sent his two sons to Newcastle, and sent commandment to every man to draw to Newcastle, saying: "Ye shall go to Newcastle and all the country shall assemble there, and I shall tarry at Alnwick,* which is a passage that they must pass by. If we can surround them we shall speed well."

Sir Henry Percy and Sir Ralph his brother obeyed their father's commandment and came thither with the men of the country. The Scots rode burning and exiling the country, so that the smoke thereof came to Newcastle. The Scots came to the gates of Durham and scrimmished there; but they tarried not long but returned, as they had arranged to do, and what they found by the way they took; and destroyed it.

When these three Scottish earls, who were chief captains, had sore overrun the country, then they returned to Newcastle and there rested and tarried two days, and every day they scrimmished.

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* Pronounced an'ik.

The Earl of Northumberland's two sons were young, lusty knights, and were ever foremost at the barriers to scrimmish.

There were many proper feats of arms done and achieved; there was fighting hand to hand. Among others there fought hand to hand the Earl Douglas and Sir Henry Percy, and by force of arms the Earl Douglas won Sir Henry Percy's pennon, wherewith he was sore displeased, and so were all the Englishmen.

And the Earl Douglas said to Sir Henry Percy: "Sir, I shall bear this token of your bravery into Scotland, and shall set it on high on my castle of Dalkeith, that it may be seen far off."

"Sir," quoth Sir Henry, "ye may be sure ye shall not pass outside the bounds of this country till ye be met in such wise that ye shall make no boast thereof."

"Well, sir," quoth the Earl Douglas, "come this night to my lodging and seek for your pennon. I shall set it before my lodging and see if ye will come to take it away."

So the Scots withdrew to their lodgings and refreshed themselves with such as they had. They kept that night good watch, for they thought surely to be awaked; but they were not, for Sir Henry Percy was counseled not so to do.

The next day the Scots dislodged and returned toward their own country, and so came to the town and castle of Otterburn, thirty English miles from Newcastle, and there lodged. That day they made no assault, but the next morning they blew their

horns and made ready to assail the castle, which was strong, for it stood in the marsh.

That day they assaulted till they were weary, and did nothing. Then they sounded the retreat and returned to their lodgings. Then the Scottish lords took counsel to determine what they should do. The most part advised that the next day they should dislodge without any assault and should move toward Carlisle.

But the Earl Douglas broke that counsel, and said: "In defiance of Sir Henry Percy, who said he would come and win again his pennon, let us not depart hence for two or three days. Let us assail this castle; it can be taken; we shall have double honor. And then let us see if he will come and fetch his pennon."

Every man agreed to his saying, for their honor's sake and for their love of him. Also they lodged there at their ease, for there was none that troubled them; they made lodgings of boughs and fortified their camp wisely with the marsh that was there, and their carriages were set at the entry into the marshes, and they had all their beasts within the marsh. Then they made ready to assault the next day; this was their intention.

Now let us speak of Sir Henry Percy and of Sir Ralph his brother, and show somewhat what they did. They were sore displeased that the Earl Douglas had won the pennon of their arms.

Also it touched greatly their honors, if they did not do as Sir Henry Percy said he would; for he had said to the Earl Douglas that he should not carry his pennon out of England, and he had openly spoken

it before all the knights and squires that were at Newcastle.

The Englishmen there thought surely that the Earl Douglas' band was but the Scots' vanguard, and that their main army was left behind.

The knights of the country, such as were well expert in arms, spoke against Sir Henry Percy's opinion, and said to him: "Sir, in war there be many things lost. If the Earl Douglas have won your pennon, he bought it dear, for he came to the gate to seek it and was well fought with. Another day ye shall win as much of him, or more.

"Sir, we say this because we know well that all the power of Scotland is in the field, and if we issue out we have not men enough to fight with them.

"Peradventure (*perhaps*) they have made this scrimmish with us to the intent to draw us out of the town, and if they have, as it is said, above forty thousand men, they may soon inclose us and do with us what they will.

"It were better to lose a pennon than two or three hundred knights and squires, and put all our country in danger." These words restrained Sir Henry and his brother, for they would do nothing against counsel. Then tidings came to them from scouts who had seen the Scots, and seen what way they took and where they rested.

CHAPTER XLIX

HOW SIR HENRY PERCY AND HIS BROTHER, WITH A GOOD NUMBER OF MEN OF ARMS AND ARCHERS, WENT AFTER THE SCOTS, TO WIN AGAIN HIS PENNON THAT THE EARL DOUGLAS HAD WON, AND HOW THEY ASSAILED THE SCOTS IN THEIR LODGINGS

It was showed to Sir Henry Percy and to his brother, and to the other knights that were there, by those who had followed the Scots from Newcastle and had well watched their doings, who said to Sir Henry and to Sir Ralph: "Sirs, we have followed the Scots secretly, and have seen all the country. The Scots have gone to Otterburn, and there they lay this night. What they will do to-morrow we know not. They are arrayed as if their intent were to abide there; and, sirs, surely their great host is not with them, for in all they do not exceed three thousand men."

When Sir Henry heard that he was joyful, and said: "Sirs, let us leap on our horses, for by the faith I owe to God and to my lord my father, I will go seek for my pennon and dislodge them this same night." Knights and squires that heard him agreed thereto, were joyous, and every man made him ready.

The same evening the Bishop of Durham was to come thither also with a good company to fight with the Scots.

But Sir Henry Percy would not wait for his coming, for he had with him six hundred spears, knights and squires, and eight thousand footmen. They

thought that a sufficient number to fight with the Scots, if they were but three hundred spears and three thousand others.

Thus they departed from Newcastle after dinner (*in the forenoon*), and set forth in good order and rode to Otterburn; but they could not ride fast because of their footmen.

And when the Scots had supped and some had lain down to their rest, they were weary of assaulting of the castle all that day, and thought to rise early in the cool of the day to give a new assault, then suddenly the Englishmen came on them and entered into the camp, thinking it the masters' lodgings, though it was only the camp of the varlets and servants.

Then the Englishmen cried, "Percy, Percy!" and entered into the lodgings, and ye know well how noise is soon raised in such an affray.

It fortuned well for the Scots, for when they saw the Englishmen had come to wake them, then the lords sent certain of their servants and footmen to scrimmish with the Englishmen at the entry of the lodgings, and in the meantime they armed themselves, every man under his banner and under his captain's pennon.

The night was far on, but the moon shone as bright as it had been day. It was in the month of August, and the weather fair and temperate.

Thus the Scots were drawn together, and without any noise departed from their lodgings and went around a little mountain, which was greatly for their advantage. For all the day before they had well ex-

amined the place, and said among themselves: "If the Englishmen come on us suddenly, then we will do thus and thus, for it is a hazardous thing in the night if men of war enter into our lodgings. If they do, then we will draw to such a place, and thereby either we shall win or lose."

When the Englishmen entered into the field they soon overcame the varlets, and as they entered further in, always they found new men to scrimmish with them.

Then suddenly came the Scots from around the mountain and set on the Englishmen, and cried their war cries; whereof the Englishmen were sore astonished. Then they cried "Percy!" and the other party cried "Douglas!"

There began a cruel battle, and at the first encounter many were overthrown of both parties; and because the Englishmen were a great number and greatly desired to vanquish their enemies, they did put aback the Scots, so that the Scots were near discomfited.

Then the Earl James Douglas, who was young and strong and of great desire to win praise, and was willing to deserve to have it, and cared for no pain nor trouble,* came forth with his banner, and cried, "Douglas, Douglas!" and Sir Henry Percy and Sir Ralph his brother, who had great indignation against the Earl Douglas because he had won the pennon of their arms, came to that part and cried, "Percy!"

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* Mark the description of a knightly spirit. It is as true in our century as five hundred years ago.

Their two banners met, and their men. There was a sore fight; the Englishmen were so strong and fought so valiantly that they turned the Scots back. There were two valiant knights of Scots under the banner of the Earl Douglas, called Sir Patrick of Hepbourn and Sir Patrick his son. The earl's banner would have been won if they had not been there; they defended it so valiantly and in the rescuing thereof did such feats of arms that it was greatly to their recommendation and to their heirs forever after.

All this was told to me by those who had been at this battle, by knights and squires of England as well as of Scotland, at the house of the Earl of Foix, for soon after this battle was done I met at Orthez two squires of England; also when I returned to Avignon I found also there a knight and a squire of Scotland; I knew them, and they knew me by such tokens as I showed them of their country, for I, author of this book, in my youth had ridden nigh over all the realm of Scotland, and I stayed fifteen days in the house of Earl Douglas, father to the Earl James, of whom I spake just now, in a castle five leagues from Edinburgh in the country of Dalkeith; the same time I saw there this Earl James, a fair young child, and a sister of his called the Lady Blanche; and I was informed by both the Scotch and the English how this battle was as sore a battle as hath been heard of.

And I believe it well, for Englishmen on the one hand and Scots on the other are good men of war, for when they meet there is a hard fight without sparing; there is no crying "Hold!" between them as long as

spears, swords, axes, or daggers will endure; and after they have well fought and one party hath obtained the victory, they then take such glory in their deeds of arms and are so joyful, that they ransom their prisoners or else let them go out of the field.

So that shortly each of them is so content with the other that at their departing courteously they will say, "God thank you." But in fighting one with another there is no play nor sparing, and this is true, and that shall well appear by this said rencounter, for it was valiantly fought, as ye shall hear.

CHAPTER L

HOW THE EARL JAMES DOUGLAS BY HIS VALIANTNESS ENCOURAGED HIS MEN, WHO WERE IN A MANNER DISCOMFITED, AND HOW IN SO DOING HE WAS WOUNDED TO DEATH

Knights and squires fought on both parties valiantly; cowards there had no place, but hardiness reigned with goodly feats of arms, for knights and squires were so joined together at hand strokes that there was no place for archers.

There the Scots showed great hardiness and fought merrily with great desire of honor; the Englishmen were three to one. Howbeit, I say not but Englishmen did nobly acquit themselves, for ever the Englishmen had rather been slain or taken in the place than to fly.

Thus, as I have said, the banners of Douglas and Percy and their men were met each against other, every man envious who should win the honor of that day.

At the beginning the Englishmen were so strong that they turned back their enemies; then the Earl Douglas, who was of great heart and high of enterprise, seeing his men turn back, to recover the place and to show knightly valor, he took his axe in both his hands and entered so into the press that he made himself room in such a way that none durst approach near him, and no man was so well armed that he did not fear the great strokes which he gave.

Thus he went ever forward like a hardy Hector, willing alone to conquer the field and to discomfit his enemies.

But at last he encountered three spears all at once; the one struck him on the shoulder, the other on the breast, and the stroke glinted down to his belly, and the third struck him in the thigh, and he was so sore hurt with all three strokes that he was borne perforce to the earth, and after that he could not again rise up.

Some of his knights and squires followed him, but not all, for it was night, and there was no light but the shining of the moon. The Englishmen knew well they had borne one down to the earth, but they knew not who it was; for if they had known that it had been the Earl Douglas, they had been thereof so joyful and so proud that the victory had been theirs.

Nor also the Scots knew not of that adventure till the end of the battle; for if they had known it they

would have been so sore discouraged that they would have fled away.

Thus as the Earl Douglas was felled to the earth he was stricken in the head with an axe, and another stroke through the thigh. The Englishmen passed on and took no heed of him; they thought none otherwise but that they had slain a man of arms.

On the other part, the Earl de la March fought right valiantly and gave the Englishmen much trouble, and cried, "Follow Douglas!" and set on the sons of Percy; also Earl John of Moray with his banner and men fought valiantly and set fiercely on the Englishmen, and gave them so much to do that they knew not to whom to attend.

CHAPTER LI

HOW IN THIS BATTLE SIR RALPH PERCY WAS SORE HURT AND TAKEN PRISONER BY A SCOTTISH KNIGHT

Of all the battles and encounterings that I have made mention of herebefore in all this history, great or small, this battle that I treat of now was one of the sorest and best fought, without cowardice or faint hearts.

For there was neither knight nor squire but that did his devoir (*duty*) and fought hand to hand; this battle was valiantly fought and endured.

The Earl of Northumberland's sons, Sir Henry and Sir Ralph Percy, who were chief sovereign cap-

tains, acquitted themselves nobly, and Sir Ralph Percy entered in so far among his enemies that he was closed in and hurt, and so sore handled that his breath was short, so that he was taken prisoner by a knight called Sir John Maxwell.

In the taking the Scottish knight demanded who he was, for it was in the night, so that he knew him not, and Sir Ralph was so sore overcome and bled fast, that at last he said, "I am Ralph Percy." Then the Scot said: "Sir Ralph, rescue or no rescue, I take you for my prisoner. I am Maxwell."

"Well," quoth Sir Ralph, "I am content; but then take heed to me, for I am sore hurt; my hosen (*leg-coverings: trousers and stockings in one*) and my greaves are full of blood." Then the knight saw by him the Earl Moray, and said: "Sir, here I deliver to you Sir Ralph Percy as prisoner; but, sir, let good heed be taken to him, for he is sore hurt." The earl was joyful of these words, and said to him: "Maxwell, thou hast well won thy spurs."

Then he delivered Sir Ralph Percy to certain of his men, and they stopped and wrapped his wounds; and still the battle endured, no one knowing who had then the better, for there were many taken and rescued again.

Now let us speak of the young James, Earl of Douglas, who did marvels in arms before he was beaten down. When he was overthrown, the press was great about him, so that he could not rise, for with an axe he had his death's wound.

His men followed him as near as they could, and

there came to him Sir James Lindsay, his cousin, and Sir John and Sir Walter Sinclair and other knights and squires.

And by him was a gentle knight of his, who followed him all the day, and a chaplain of his, not like a priest but like a valiant man of arms, for all that night he followed the Earl Douglas with a good axe in his hands, and still scrimmished about the earl there where he lay, and turned back some of the Englishmen with great strokes that he gave.

Thus he was found fighting near to his master, whereby he had great praise, and thereby the same year he was made Archdeacon of Aberdeen. This priest was called Sir William of North Berwick; he was a tall man and a hardy, and was sore hurt.

When these knights came to the earl they found him in an evil plight, and a knight of his lying by him called Sir Robert Hart; he had fifteen wounds in one place and another. Then Sir John Sinclair demanded of the earl how he did.

"Right evil, cousin," quoth the earl, "but thanked be God there hath been but a few of mine ancestors that have died in their beds; but, cousin, I beg you think how to revenge me, for I reckon myself but dead, for my heart fainteth oftentimes.

"My cousin Walter and you, I pray you raise up again my banner which lieth on the ground, and my squire Davie Collemine slain; but, sirs, show neither to friend nor foe in what plight ye see me; for if mine enemies knew it they would rejoice, and our friends would be discomfited."

The two brethren of Sinclair and Sir James Lindsay did as the earl had desired them, and raised up again his banner and cried "Douglas!" Such as were behind and heard that cry drew together and set on their enemies valiantly, and so drove the Englishmen back beyond the place whereat the earl lay, who was by that time dead, and so they came to the earl's banner, which Sir John Sinclair held in his hands, and many good knights and squires of Scotland about him, and still more companions pressed toward the cry of "Douglas!"

Thither came the Earl Moray with his banner, and also the Earl de la March, and when they saw the Englishmen turn back and their company assembled together, they renewed the battle again and gave many hard and sad strokes.

CHAPTER LII

HOW THE SCOTS WON THE BATTLE AGAINST THE ENGLISHMEN, AND THERE WERE TAKEN PRISONERS SIR HENRY AND SIR RALPH PERCY, AND HOW AN ENGLISH SQUIRE WOULD NOT YIELD HIM, NO MORE WOULD A SCOTTISH SQUIRE, AND SO BOTH DIED; AND HOW THE BISHOP OF DURHAM AND HIS COMPANY WERE DISCOMFITED AMONG THEMSELVES

To say truth, the Englishmen were sorer oppressed than the Scots, for they came the same day from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, about thirty English miles, and went a great pace intending to find the

Scots, which they did; so that by their fast going they were near out of breath.

The Scots were fresh and well rested, which greatly helped them. In the last scrimmish they drove back the Englishmen in such wise that after that they could no more assemble together, for the Scots passed through their battles.

It chanced that Sir Henry Percy and the Lord of Montgomery, a valiant knight of Scotland, fought together hand to hand right valiantly without hindrance from any others, for every man had enough to do. So long they two fought that per force of arms Sir Henry Percy was taken prisoner by the said Lord of Montgomery.

This was a sore battle and well foughten; and as fortune is always changeable, though the Englishmen were more in number than the Scots and were right valiant men of war and well expert, and though at the first front they turned back the Scots, yet finally the Scots obtained the victory, and all the foresaid Englishmen were taken, and a hundred more.

The same time about the end of this discomfiture there was an English squire called Thomas Waltham. He was a goodly and a valiant man, for all that night he would neither fly nor yet yield him. It was said he had made a vow that the first time that ever he saw Englishmen and Scots in battle he would do his devoir (*duty*) in such wise that either he would be reputed for the best doer on both sides, or else would die in the effort.

He was called a valiant and a hardy man, and did

so much by his bravery that the Scots marveled at him; and so he was slain in fighting.

The Scots would gladly have taken him alive, but he would never yield; he hoped ever to be rescued. And with him there was a Scottish squire slain, cousin to the King of Scots, called Simon Glendowyn; his death was greatly mourned by the Scots.

This battle was fierce and cruel till it came to the end of the discomfiture; but when the Scots saw the Englishmen recoil and yield themselves, then the Scots were courteous and ransomed them, and every man said to his prisoner, "Sir, go and unarm you and take your ease; I am your master," and so made their prisoners as good cheer as though they had been brethren, without doing to them any damage.

The chase endured five English miles, and if the Scots had had men enough there had no Englishman escaped; all would have been taken or slain.

And if Archambault Douglas and the Earl of Fife, the Earl Sutherland and other of the great company who were gone toward Carlisle had been there, by all likelihood they would have taken the Bishop of Durham and the town of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. I shall show you how.

The same evening that the Percys departed from Newcastle, as ye have heard before, the Bishop of Durham with the rearguard came to Newcastle and supped; and as he sat at the table he had imagination in himself how he did not acquit himself well to leave Englishmen in the field while he remained within the town.

Incontinent he caused the table to be taken away, and commanded to saddle his horses and to sound the trumpets, and called up men in the town to arm themselves and to mount on their horses, and footmen to be ready to depart.

And thus every man departed out of the town to the number of seven thousand; two thousand on horseback and five thousand afoot; they took their way toward Otterburn, where the battle had been.

And by the time they had gone two leagues from Newcastle tidings came to them how their men were fighting with the Scots.

Incontinent came more flying so fast that they were out of breath. Then they were demanded how the matter went.

They answered and said: "Right evil; we are all discomfited; here come the Scots chasing of us." These tidings troubled the Englishmen, and they began to doubt.

And again the third time men came flying as fast as they might. When the men of the bishopric of Durham heard of these evil tidings they were so dismayed that they broke their array, so that the bishop could not hold together the number of five hundred. It was thought that if the Scots had followed them in any number, seeing that it was night, and the Englishmen so abashed, the town might have been taken by the Scots.

The Bishop of Durham, being in the field, had good will to have succored the Englishmen and recomforted his men as much as he could; but still he

saw his own men fly, and the longer they stood the fewer they were, for some still stole away.

Then the bishop said: "Sirs, all things considered, it is no honor to put everything in peril, nor to make two evils out of one. Our company is discomfited, and we can not remedy it. Let us return for this night to Newcastle, and to-morrow let us draw together and go look on our enemies." Every man answered, "As God will, so be it."

Therewith they returned to Newcastle. Thus a man may consider the great default that is in men that are dismayed and discomfited; for if they had kept themselves together and had turned again such as fled, they had discomfited the Scots. This was the opinion of divers; and because they did not thus, the Scots had the victory.

CHAPTER LIII

HOW SIR MATTHEW REDMAN DEPARTED FROM THE BATTLE TO SAVE HIMSELF; AND HOW SIR JAMES LINDSAY WAS TAKEN PRISONER BY THE BISHOP OF DURHAM; AND HOW AFTER THE BATTLE SCOUTS WERE SENT FORTH TO EXPLORE THE COUNTRY

I SHALL tell you of Sir Matthew Redman, who was on horseback to save himself, for he alone could not remedy the matter. At his departing Sir James Lindsay was near to him and saw how Sir Matthew departed, and this Sir James, to win honor, followed

in chase Sir Matthew Redman, and came so near him that he might have stricken him with his spear.

Then he said: "Ah, sir knight, turn; it is a shame thus to fly. I am James of Lindsay. If ye will not turn, I shall strike you on the back with my spear."

Sir Matthew spake no word, but struck his horse with the spurs sorer than he did before. In this manner he chased him more than three miles, and at last Sir Matthew Redman's horse foundered and fell under him.

Then he stepped forth on the earth and drew out his sword, and took courage to defend himself; and the Scot thought to have stricken him on the breast, but Sir Matthew Redman swerved from the stroke, and the spear point entered into the earth.

Then Sir Matthew struck asunder the spear with his sword; and when Sir James Lindsay saw how he had lost his spear he lighted afoot, and took a little battle axe that he carried at his back and handled it with his one hand quickly and with agility, in the which feat Scots are well expert, and then he set at Sir Matthew and he defended himself properly.

Thus they tourneyed together, one with an axe and the other with a sword, a long time, and no man to hinder them.

Finally Sir James Lindsay gave the knight such strokes and held him so short that he was put out of breath, so that he yielded himself, and said: "Sir James Lindsay, I yield me to you."

"Well," quoth he, "and I receive you, rescue or

no rescue." "I am content," quoth Redman, "so ye deal with me like a good companion."

"I shall not fail that," quoth Lindsay, and so he put up his sword.

"Well, sir," quoth Redman, "what will you now that I shall do? I am your prisoner; ye have conquered me. I would gladly go again to Newcastle, and within fifteen days I will come to you into Scotland, to any place you appoint for me."

"I am content," quoth Lindsay. "Ye shall promise by your faith to present yourself within this three weeks at Edinburgh, and wheresoever ye go to consider yourself my prisoner." All this Sir Matthew swore and promised to fulfill.

Then each of them took their horses and they took leave of each other. Sir James returned, and his intent was to go to his own company the same way that he came; and Sir Matthew Redman went to Newcastle.

Sir James Lindsay could not keep the right way as he came; it was dark and misty, and he had not ridden half a mile before he met face to face with the Bishop of Durham and more than five hundred Englishmen with him.

He might have escaped, but he supposed it was his own company, that had pursued the Englishmen.

When he was among them, one demanded of him what he was. "I am," quoth he, "Sir James Lindsay."

The bishop heard those words, and stepped to him and said, "Lindsay, ye are taken; yield to me." "Who be you?" quoth Lindsay. "I am," quoth he, "the Bishop of Durham."

"And from whence come you, sir?" quoth Lindsay. "I come from the battle," quoth the bishop; "but I struck never a stroke there. I go back to Newcastle for this night, and ye shall go with me." "I may not choose," quoth Lindsay, "since ye will have it so. I have taken and I am taken; such is the fortune of war."

"Whom have ye taken?" quoth the bishop. "Sir," quoth he, "I took in the chase Sir Matthew Redman." "And where is he?" quoth the bishop. "By my faith, sir, he is returned to Newcastle; he desired me to trust him on his faith for three weeks, and so have I done."

"Well," quoth the bishop, "let us go to Newcastle, and there ye shall speak with him." Thus they rode to Newcastle together, and Sir James Lindsay was prisoner to the Bishop of Durham.

Under the banner of the Earl de la March was taken a squire of Gascony called John of Chateauneuf, and under the banner of the Earl of Moray was taken his companion, John de Cantiron.

The Scots drew together and took guides and sent out scouts to see if any men were coming from Newcastle, to trouble them in their lodgings.

In this they did wisely, for when the Bishop of Durham was come again to Newcastle he was sore pensive (*very thoughtful—sad*) and knew not what to say or do; for he heard that his cousins the Percys were slain or taken, and all the knights that were with them.

Then he sent for all the knights and squires that

were in the town, and said, "Sirs, we shall bear great blame if we thus return without looking on our enemies."

Then they determined that by the sunrising every man was to be armed and on horseback and afoot was to depart out of the town and to go to Otterburn to fight with the Scots.

This was proclaimed through the town by a trumpet, and every man armed himself and assembled before the bridge, and by the sunrising they departed by the gate toward Berwick and took the way toward Otterburn to the number of ten thousand, afoot and ahorseback.

They were not gone more than two miles from Newcastle when the Scots were notified that the Bishop of Durham was coming to-them-ward to fight; this they knew by their spies, such as they had set in the fields.

After Sir Matthew Redman returned to Newcastle and had told how he had been taken prisoner by Sir James Lindsay, then it was told to him how the Bishop of Durham had taken the said Sir James Lindsay, and how that he was there in the town as his prisoner.

As soon as the bishop was departed Sir Matthew Redman went to the bishop's lodging to see his captor, and there he found him very pensive, leaning against a window, and said, "What, Sir James Lindsay, what do you here?"

Then Sir James broke off his thought and came toward him and gave him good-morrow, and said:

"By my faith, Sir Matthew, fortune hath brought me hither; for as soon as I was departed from you I met by chance the Bishop of Durham, to whom I am prisoner, as ye be to me. I believe ye shall not need to come to Edinburgh to me to pay your ransom money; I think rather we shall make an exchange one for another, if the bishop be so content."

"Well, sir," quoth Redman, "we shall agree right well together; ye shall dine this day with me. The bishop and our men have gone forth to fight with your men. I can not tell what is to befall; we shall know at their return." "I am content to dine with you," quoth Lindsay. Thus these two knights dined together in Newcastle.

When the knights of Scotland were informed how the Bishop of Durham came on them with ten thousand men, they took counsel to see what was best for them to do, whether to depart or else to abide the adventure.

All things considered, they concluded to abide, for they said they could not be in a better nor a stronger place than they were in already: they had many prisoners, and they could not carry them away if they departed; and also they had many of their men hurt and also some of their prisoners, whom they thought they would not leave behind them.

Thus they drew together and ordered so their battle, that there was only one place of entry, and they set all their prisoners together and made them promise that, rescue or no rescue, they should be their prisoners.

After that they made all their minstrels blow all their horns at once and made the greatest revel of the world. Oftentimes such is the usage (*custom*) of Scots, when they are thus assembled together in arms, for the footmen bear about their necks horns in manner like hunters, some great, some small, and of all sorts, so that when they blow all at once they make such a noise that it may be heard nigh four miles off; thus they do to dismay their enemies and to rejoice themselves.

When the Bishop of Durham with his banner and ten thousand men with him had approached within a league, then the Scots blew their horns in such wise that such as heard them and knew not of their custom were sore dismayed.

This blowing and noise lasted a long while and then ceased; and by that time the Englishmen were within less than a mile.

Then the Scots began to blow again and made a great noise, which as long endured as it did before. Then the bishop approached with his battle well ranged in good order and came within the sight of the Scots, as within two bowshot or less; then the Scots blew again their horns a long space (*time*).

The bishop stood still to see what the Scots would do, and viewed them well, and saw how they were in a strong ground greatly to their advantage.

Then the bishop took counsel what was best for him to do; but all things well considered, they returned without doing anything, for they saw well they might rather lose than win.

When the Scots saw the Englishmen turn back, and that they should have no battle, they went to their lodgings and made merry, and then prepared to depart from thence.

And because Sir Ralph Percy was sore hurt, he desired his master (*his captor*) that he might return to Newcastle until such time as he were whole of his hurts, promising, as soon as he was able to ride, to return into Scotland, either to Edinburgh or into any other place appointed.

The Earl of March, under whom he was taken, agreed thereto, and delivered him a horse litter and sent him away; and by like covenant (*agreement*) divers other knights and squires were permitted to return.

It was told me by the information of the Scots, such as had been at this said battle that was between Newcastle and Otterburn in the year of our Lord God a thousand three hundred four score and eight, the nineteenth day of August, how that there were taken prisoners of the English party a thousand and forty men, and slain in the field and in the chase eighteen hundred and forty, and sore hurt more than a thousand.

And of the Scots there were a hundred slain, and more than two hundred taken in the chase; for as the Englishmen fled, when they saw any advantage they returned again and fought; by that means the Scots were taken and not otherwise. Every man may well consider that it was a well-fought field, when there were so many slain and taken on both parties.

CHAPTER LIV

HOW THE SCOTS DEPARTED AND CARRIED WITH THEM THE EARL DOUGLAS DEAD, AND BURIED HIM IN THE ABBEY OF MELROSE; AND HOW HIS COMPANY RETURNED INTO SCOTLAND

After this battle was finished the Earl Douglas' dead body was chested (*placed in a coffin*) and laid in a cart; then they prepared to depart. So they departed, and led with them Sir Henry Percy and more than forty knights of England, and took the way to the abbey of Melrose.

At their departing they set fire in their lodgings, and rode all the day, and yet lay that night on English ground; none opposed them.

The next day they dislodged early in the morning, and so came that day to Melrose. It is an abbey of black monks,* on the border between both realms. There they rested, and buried the Earl James Douglas. His obsequy was done reverently, and on his body was laid a tomb of stone and his banner hanging over him.

Whether there were then any more Earls of Douglas I can not tell; for I, Sir John Froissart, author of this book, was in Scotland in the earl's castle of Dalkeith, in the time of Earl James, at which time he

* Black monks—monks of the order established by St. Dominic in A. D. 1217, so called from the black robe worn by them. England and Scotland were full of the houses of this order in the fourteenth century.

had two children, a son and a daughter; but there were many of the Douglases, for I have seen five brethren, all bearing the name of Douglas, in the house of David, King of Scotland.

They were sons to a knight in Scotland called Sir James Douglas, but as for the heritage, I know not who had it; as for Sir Archambault Douglas, of whom I have spoken before in this history in divers places, who was a valiant knight, and greatly feared by the Englishmen, he could not inherit the earldom.

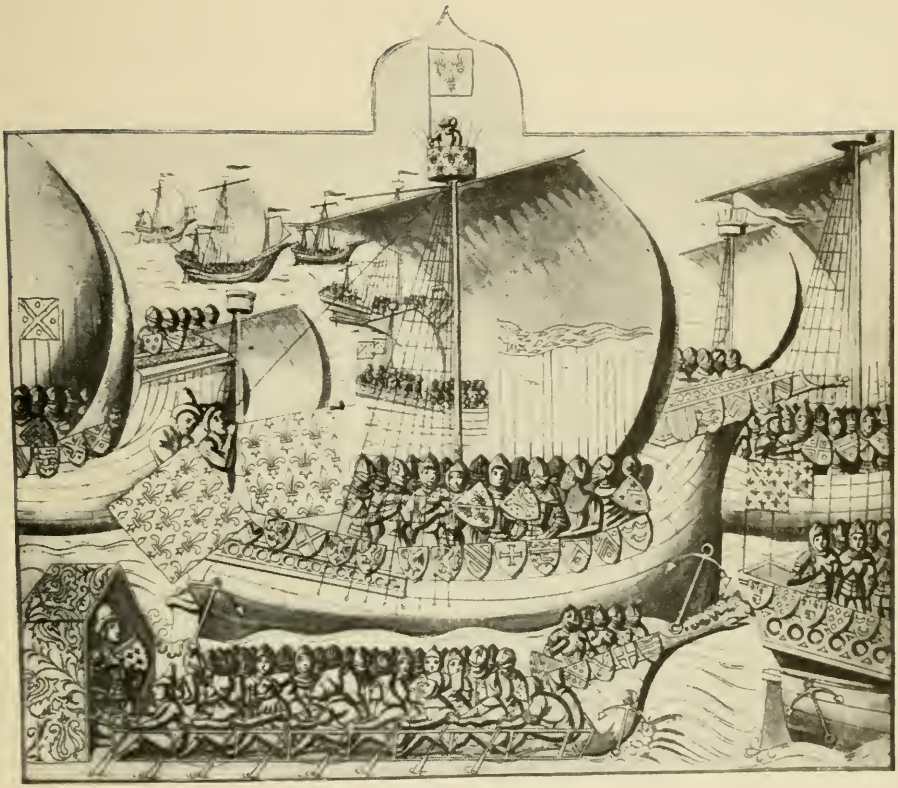
When the Scots had been at Melrose Abbey and done there all that they came thither for, they departed each from other and went into their own countries; and such as had prisoners led them away with them, and some were ransomed and suffered to return. Thus the Englishmen found the Scots right courteous and gentle in their deliverance and ransom, so that they were well content.

This was told me in the country of Béarn, in the Earl of Foix's house, by a knight named John of Chateauneuf, who was taken prisoner that day under the banner of the Earl of March; and he greatly praised the said earl.

Thus these men of war of Scotland departed, and ransomed their prisoners as soon as they might, right courteously, and so returned little by little into their own countries.

And it was told me, and I believe it well, that the Scots had by reason of that journey two hundred thousand franks for ransoming of prisoners.

For since the battle that was before Sterling in Scotland, whereat Sir Robert of Bruce, Sir William Douglas, Sir Simon Fraser, and other Scots, chased the Englishmen three days, they never had a day so profitable nor so honorable for them as this was.



The expedition to Africa.

PART VII

THE SIEGE OF THE CITY OF AFRIQUE

CHAPTER LV

HOW THE CHRISTIAN LORDS AND THE GENOESE DEPARTED TO LAY SIEGE TO THE STRONG CITY OF AFRIQUE,* IN BARBARY (A. D. 1390)

Now let us return to the high enterprise (*undertaking*) that the Christian knights of France and other nations did in that season in the realm of Afrique (*Africa*), and I will begin where I left off. The said lords assembled in an island after they had passed the tempests and perils in the Gulf of Lyons. In this isle they tarried nine days, and refreshed them; and there the patrons (*captains*) of the galleys said to the lords: "Sirs, we are in the land next approaching to the country of Afrique, whither by the grace of God ye are purposed to go and lay siege; wherefore it is now proper to take counsel how we may enter into the haven (*harbor*).

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* The town which Froissart calls "Afrique" is Mehadia, on the coast near Tunis.

"To save ourselves it is best we should send foremost our little ships called brigandines, and tarry in the mouth of the haven the first day that we approach and all the night after, and the next morning land by the grace of God at our leisure, and then lodge ourselves as near the city as we may, beyond the shot of their artillery, and let us set our crossbow Genoese in order, who shall be able to defend all scrimmishes.

"And we suppose that when we shall take landing we have here in your companies many young squires, who to enhance their honors will require to have the order of knighthood. Instruct them wisely how they shall maintain themselves, and, my lords, know for truth that all we seamen shall acquit us faithfully and truly, for ofttimes they have done us great damage.

"For on that coast is the chief key of Barbary, and of the realms of Afrique, and of Morocco; and if God of his grace will consent that we may win this city of Afrique, all the Saracens will tremble, even to the realm of Libya and Syria, so that all the world shall speak thereof."

And thus in conclusion the patrons said: "Lords, we say not this to teach you what ye should do, but this that we have said is all only for love and by humility, for ye be all noblemen, sage and valiant, and can better order everything than we can devise and speak."

Then the Lord of Coucy* said: "Sirs, your good

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* Pronounced kö-sē'.

counsel and advice ought greatly to content us, for we see nothing therein but good; and, sirs, be ye sure that we shall do nothing without your counsel, for ye have brought us hither to do deeds of arms."

Thus in the presence of the Duke of Bourbon the lords and other counseled together how they might approach the strong town of Afrique.

When everything was set in good order by the admiral and patrons of the galleys, and when the wind and weather served them, every lord entered into his galley with his own men, having great desire to encounter their enemies, the Saracens.

Then the trumpets blew at their departing. It was great pleasure to behold their oars, how they rowed abroad in the sea, which was peaceable, calm, and fair, so that in a manner the sea showed herself that she had great desire that the Christian men should come before the strong town of Afrique.

The Christian navy was goodly to look upon and well ordered, and it was beautiful to see the banners and pennons of silk with the arms and badges of the lords waving with the wind and shining against the sun, and within an hour of noon the Christian men perceived the high towers of the town of Afrique, and the farther they sailed the nearer it showed to their sight.

Wherefore every man rejoiced; and good cause why, seeing they all desired to come thither; they thought then in a manner their pains were over and their voyage accomplished.

Thus as they approached the realm of Afrique they communed and devised among themselves; and in like manner the Saracens that were within the town of Afrique spoke and devised and were sore dismayed, when they saw their enemies approach with such a number of sails, and they saw that surely they were likely to be besieged.

Howbeit, they thought their town so strong, with towers and walls and with artillery, that therewith they were comforted and took courage; and to give warning to the country, as soon as they saw their enemies on the sea from the high towers, they sounded drums and trumpets, according to their custom.

The men of Barbary that had been sent thither by the King of Afrique and by the King of Tunis, when they knew of the Christian men's coming by reason of the noise of the drums and trumpets, each man took heed to his duty.

They sent certain of their captains to the seaside to see the approaching of the Christian men and to watch them that night.

Also they prepared to defend the towers and gates about the haven of Afrique, to the intent that by their negligence the town should take no damage, which town was so strong that it was not likely to take great hurt without a long siege.

And I, John Froissart, author of this chronicle, because I was never in Afrique, and because I might truly write the manner and fashion of this enterprise, always I desired such knights and squires as had been on this voyage to inform me of everything.

And it was told me that the Saracens among themselves said that the Christian men were expert and subtle men of arms.

Whereupon an ancient Saracen said to all his company: "Sirs, all things considered, it is best that the Christian men at the beginning see not our strength and power, nor have we now men sufficient to fight with them, but daily men will come to us; wherefore I think it best to suffer them to land.

"They have no horses to overrun the country; they will not spread abroad, but will keep together for fear of us. The town is strong enough and well provided, and we need not fear any assaults.

"The air is hot, and will be hotter; they are lodged in the sun, and we in the shadow; and they will daily waste their victuals, and will be without hope to get any new supply if they lie here any long time; and we shall have plenty, for we are in our own country.

"And they shall oftentimes be awaked and scrimmished with to their damage and to our advantage. Let us not fight with them, for otherwise they can not discomfit us; they are not used to the air of this country, which is contrary to their nature. I think this is the best way."

To the saying of this ancient Saracen knight all agreed. Then it was commanded on pain of death that no man should go to the seaside to scrimmish with the Christian men, unless they were commanded so to do, but to keep themselves close in their lodgings and suffer the Christian men to land.

This determination was upholden; none durst break it; and they sent certain of their archers into the town of Afrique, to aid to defend it.

The Saracens showed themselves not at all, as though there had been no men in the country. The Christian men lodged all that night in the mouth of the haven of Afrique, and the next morning the weather was fair and clear, and the air in good temper (*cool*), and the sun rose so that it was pleasure to behold.

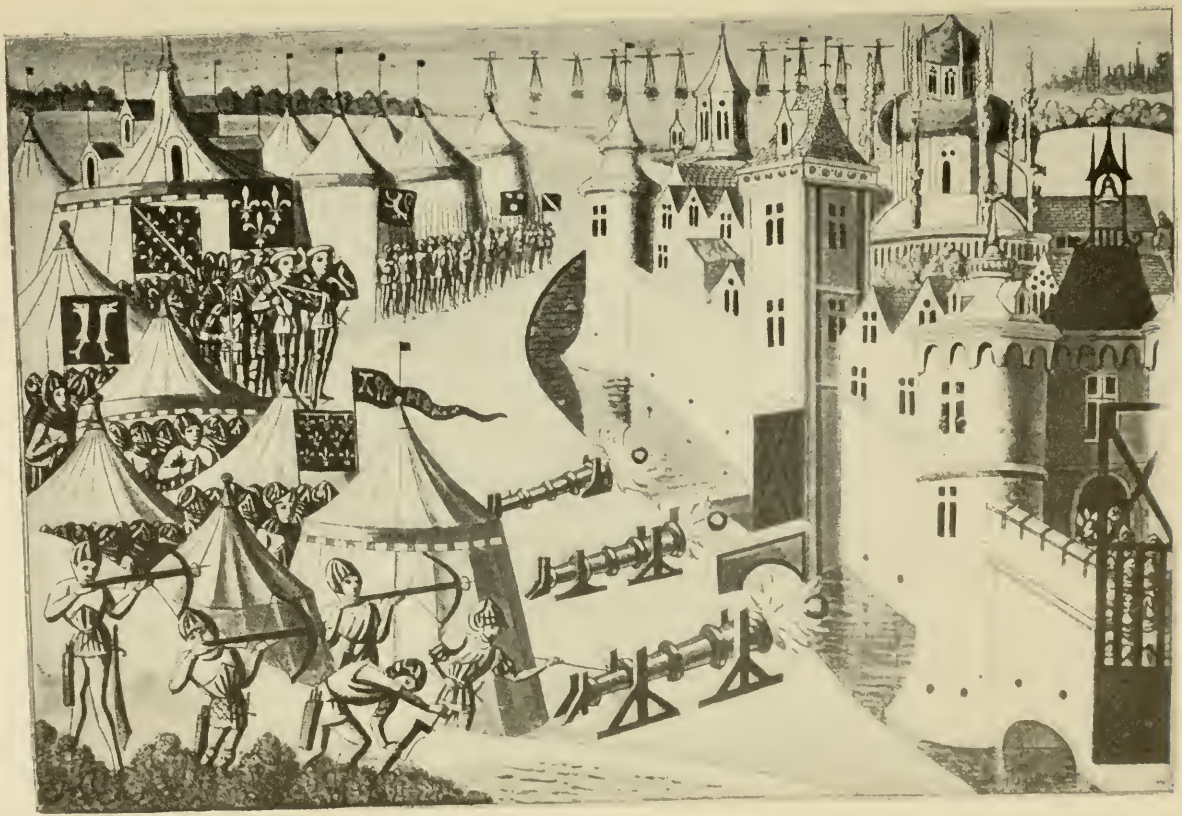
Then the Christian men began to stir and made them ready, having great desire to approach the town of Afrique and to land. Then trumpets and clarions began to sound in the galleys and vessels and made a great noise, and about nine of the clock, when the Christian men had taken a little refreshing with drink, then were they rejoiced.

According as they had appointed beforehand, they sent in first their light vessels called brigandines, well furnished with artillery; they entered into the haven, and after them came the armed galleys and the other ships of the fleet in good order.

Toward the land by the seaside there was a strong castle with high towers, and specially one tower, which defended the seaside and the land also.

And in this tower was an engine, which was not idle, but still did cast great stones among the Christian men's ships. In like wise in every tower of the town by the seaside there were engines to cast stones.

The Saracens had well provided for their town, for they had long expected to be besieged.



The siege of the strong city of Afrique.

When the Christian men entered into the haven of Afrique to land, it was a pleasant sight to behold their order and to hear the clarions and trumpets sound so high and clear.

Divers knights and valiant men of the realm of France spread abroad that day their banners with divers other new-made knights. The Lord John of Ligne * was there first made knight; he was of the country of Hainault; and there he spread abroad first his banner, the field gold, a bend of gules (*red*), and in his company was his cousin the Lord of Havreth in Hainault.

Thus the lords, knights, and squires with great desire advanced and took land, and lodged on the land of their enemies in the sight of the false Saracens on a Wednesday on the evening of Mary Magdalen in the year of our Lord God a thousand three hundred and four score and ten, and as they took land they were lodged (*encamped*) by their marshals.

The Saracens that were within the town praised much the Christian men's order; and because the great galleys could not approach near to the land, the men issued out in boats and took land and followed the banner of Our Lady.†

The Saracens that were within the town and such as were abroad in the country suffered the Christian men peaceably to land, for they saw it would not be for their advantage to fight with them at their landing.

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* Pronounced in two syllables, lē-ny.

† The Virgin Mary.

The Duke of Bourbon, who was chief of the Christian army there, was lodged in the midst of his company right honorably, his banner displayed, powdered full of flower-de-luces, with an image of Our Lady in the midst, and a scutcheon with the arms of Bourbon under the feet of the image.

The Saracens within the town of Afrique had great marvel by what title or for what purpose the Christian men came thither so strongly to make war.

It was told me how they determined to send to the Christian men to know their reasons, and so took an interpreter that could speak Italian and commanded him to go to the Christian host and to demand of them for what purpose they came to make war, and why they come so strongly into the empire of Barbary and into the land of Afrique.

"And say how we have in nothing offended them. Of a truth before this time there hath been war between us and the Genoese, but that war ought not to touch the Christian men of far off countries.

"As for the Genoese, they are our neighbors; they take of us and we of them; we have been ancient enemies, and shall be, except when truce is between us."

With this message the interpreter departed and rode to the Christian army, and met first with a Genoese, and told him he was a messenger sent from the Saracens to speak with some lord of France.

The Genoese was a centurion (*captain of a hundred*) of the crossbows. He brought this messenger

to the Duke of Bourbon, who gladly heard him speak; and the words that he spake in his own language* the centurion spoke them in French.

When this messenger had declared his message he desired to have an answer. The lords of France said he should have one, but first they would take advice in the matter.

Then twelve of the greatest lords drew together to council in the Duke of Bourbon's tent, and concluded, and so sent for the messenger; and the Genoese made him his answer in all their names, saying how the quarrel that they made war in was because the Son of God, called Jesu Christ, and true prophet, by the Saracens was put to death and crucified; and because the Saracens had judged their God to death without title or reason, therefore these Christians would have amends and punish that sin and false judgment that the Saracens had made.

And also because they believed not in the holy baptism; also because they believed not in the Virgin Mary, mother to Jesu Christ. For these causes and other, they said, they took the Saracens for their enemies, and said how they would revenge the outrages that they had done and daily do to their God and Christian faith.

With this answer the interpreter returned without peril or damage, and told to his masters all as ye have heard.

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* "The words that the lords could not understand"; the messenger spoke Italian.

At this answer the Saracens did nothing but laugh, and said how that answer was not reasonable, for it was the Jews that put Christ to death, and not they. Thus the siege still endured, every party making good watch.

Soon after, the Saracens took counsel together and determined that for seven or eight days together they should let the Christian men rest, and not make any manner of scrimmish with them, and then suddenly on a night about the hour of midnight they would set on the host, trusting thereby to do a great feat.

As they agreed, so they did, and for eight days together they made no scrimmish, and on the ninth day about midnight they secretly armed themselves with such armor as they were accustomed to, and so came without any noise near to the lodgings of the Christian men, and would have undertaken to have done a great feat and to have entered their camp, not on that side that their watch was on, but on the other part of the field, where there was no watch kept.

They would have succeeded if the Genoese had not had a great dog in their company that they brought with them, but they knew not from whence he came; there was none that acknowledged the dog to be his; which dog did them great service, for the Saracens could never come so secretly but the dog would bay and make such a noise that he would not rest till all that were asleep were awake.

Every man knew when they heard the dog bay

that the Saracens were coming to scrimmish with them, upon which they appareled themselves to resist them.

When the Saracens came, upon this night, the dog was not idle, but he made a great noise and ran baying first to the watch. The Lord of Coucy kept the watch that night.

When every man heard this dog make such a noise they rose and armed them ready, for they knew well that the Saracens did approach to awake them; so the Saracens returned to their lodgings; and after that the Christian men took better heed to their watch.

The Christian knights and squires that lay at the siege studied day and night how they might win the town, and they within studied again how to defend their town.

The season was hot and dry, for the sun was in his utmost strength, as in the month of August, and the plains of Afrique are right hot by reason of the sand, and also they are nearer to the sun than we are.

And the wines that the Christian men had came from Calabria, and they were hot and dry, far from the nature of the French wines, whereby many fell into hot fevers.

And to consider according to reason, I can not tell how the Frenchmen and others from northern countries could endure the pain of the hot and gross air that they found there, without refreshing of good, sweet, and fresh water, which they lacked.

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